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LITERATURE.

"THE PRIME MINISTERS OF QUEEN VIC-TORIA." - Lord Beaconsfield. By J. A. Froude. (Sampson Low.)

WHATEVER else there is to be said of it, beyond any manner of doubt this book is most attractively written. Be he what he will, Tory, Disraelite, Radical, or Whig, no man of taste can fail to read it with pleasure and to lay it down with regret. When Mr. Froude writes on a historical subject, praise is, perhaps, a superfluity, and blame a presumption. Still, with all possible humility, it must be said of this book that the matter is almost as faulty as the manner is faultless. One wonders equally at the facile adroitness of the style-so bright, so flowing, so easy, yet so epigrammatic—and at the perverse paradox of the opinions. Facts seem to masquerade uncomfortably in novel garbs; and one appears to be listening to the voice of a minor prophet crying in the wilderness—of one who, like the Bourbons, has learnt nothing and forgotten nothing for all the political changes that have passed by, who seems to occupy, without either discomfort or misgiving, the position of a teacher without pupils, a philosopher without a school. At times, one is tempted to think that the book is a collection of historical lamentations by Mr. Froude, enlivened by anecdotic sketches of Mr. Disraeli; at times, that it is a latter-day parody of Coningsby or Sybil. But for all that, however idiosyneratic and however imaginative it is, Mr. Froude's theory of Disraeli's life must always be a thing of interest and of a

Mr. Froude had access to a good deal of new material of the lighter kind, which at any rate must have enabled him to form a complete idea of the workings and ways of Disraeli's mind. For many years Disraeli carried on a close and candid correspondence with Mrs. Brydges Williams, a wealthy Jewish lady, who followed his career with admiration and interest, sought an assignation with him in order to make his personal acquaintance, became his wife's and his own most intimate friend, and by her request is buried near them at Hughenden. This correspondence Mr. Froude has seen, and at least in a general way has used. From other sources, apparently from intimate personal friends of Disraeli's, he has obtained a quantity of information particularly about Disraeli's money matters, which, if correct, adds considerably to our knowledge of his character. But with all this we seem to see rather points of light than a picture; we get more characteristics than character.

Two points in particular Mr. Froude seems to us to urge with an insistence that the evidence does not really justify. He will have it that Disraeli's lifelong affectation was a deliberate mask adopted to conceal his real thoughts and deeper nature; and he perpetually uses Disraeli's Hebrew descent to explain his aims and his failures. He makes it the source of his ideals and the excuse for his shortcomings. He calls him libertinus, libertino patre natus. Surely it is time these personalities were forgotten. Disraeli was a Jew, no doubt; but if his name had been Dickenson, if his physiognomy had been of a racially neutral cast and colouring, if his novels had not mentioned Jerusalem or crypto - Judaism, the world would have forgotten his Hebraism. Brought up as a Jew, he never acquired the instinctive knowledge of English ways and standards, which English boys obtain at school; but from the time he was twenty he lived among the classes who were always his principal allies and supporters; and if he failed to understand them, as he certainly failed to understand the middle classes, it was from no lack of acquaintance. To speak of him as being in reality a stranger in the country of his adoption is to make far too much of the matter. If he was not English, he certainly was not anything else; if he did not know his native land, it was not because he was particularly full of the knowledge of any other; and, considering the pains he was at not only to seem but to be English in every fibre, it is impossible thus to class him as a member of no nation at all.

That some of his affectation was deliberate there can be no doubt. The particular form it took was the sham-Byronic. He posed in drawing rooms as a Childe Harold of Wardour-street. But if all he wanted was to make his manners serve the Talleyrandian office of speech and conceal his thoughts, he was too clever not to know that he might find many better cloaks than familiarities of dress and demeanour, which were vulgar in a young man, and ridiculous in an old one. In fact, these traits testify to nothing but an innate want of an artistic sense of Such an hypothesis cannot propriety. explain the vigour and thoroughness with which he played that part of the English country gentleman, which, it would seem, he particularly affected. He boxed, he rode to hounds, he received the Eucharist with punctual devotion, he wore velveteens and gaiters, he presided at farmers' ordinaries. Mr. Froude would have us conceive that in reality no more was involved in all this than the love of nature of an accomplished literary man of simple personal tastes. It is too much that we should be left in doubt whether this elaborate study of the country gentleman was a life-long exercise in irony, or was really conceived to be part and parcel of those influences which made the chief of the Tory party.

With more literary tact than historical fidelity, Mr. Froude deals lightly with that part of Disraeli's life which was spent in debates and divisions, in votes of want of confidence and motions by way of amendment, and confines himself to the more human side of his subject. The gain in interest is very

sponding want of historical accuracy. Mr. Froude appears to have felt that many of these passages in Disraeli's life are now indefensible, and to have wisely decided against boring his readers merely in order to give his subject away. He disposes of these things in a few airy asides. "It may be claimed for Disraeli," he says of the period when he first became leader of the oppo-sition, "that he discharged his sad duties during all this time with as little insincerity as the circumstances allowed."

"His speeches in Parliament and out of it were dictated by the exigencies of the passing moment. We do not look for the real opinions of a leading counsel in his forensic orations. We need not expect to find Disraeli's personal convictions in what he occasionally found it necessary to say.

It may be unintentional, but really this is too unsparing. The Times could hardly say more of Mr. Parnell. It is an echo of Dr. Johnson's mot, 'I do not wish to be censorious, but I believe the man to be an attorney.'

Leaving the wildernesses of debates, Mr. Froude casts his lines in more pleasant places. He dilates on Disraeli's literary work, on his youth, his political ideals, which, by the way, he made no attempt to realise—on almost anything rather than his serious politics. His budgets are never mentioned; that he was in office twice before 1867 is only indicated, and from this book a casual reader might hardly even guess the fact. There is no real information about the "Ten Minutes' Bill"; and the whole administration of 1874 is dealt with in only four more pages than are given to a foreign tour which Disraeli made when he was about twenty-five. Thanks probably to the publication of Disraeli's letters to his sister, we have his early manhood in full. The story is interesting, if not admirable. Disraeli's leading motive from his twentieth to his fortieth year appears to have been self-advertisement. He wore gaudy garments, he wrote conceited novels, he "cheeked" Peel, he challenged O'Connell, he abused his opponents, he satirised his friends. Whatever men might think of him, he was determined never to be forgotten; and he was wise in his generation. must, withal, have been a spice of malicious pleasure even in his singularly unmalicious nature, when he saw the puzzled wonder and the helpless indignation of some of his party under these lively sallies. A "topboot Tory," wroth but dumb, struggling but impotent, like a captive cock-chafer buzzing on a pin, must have been a precious spectacle to his somewhat elfin waywardness.

But, as time went on, Disraeli developed more positive opinions. Till 1840, whatever he might call himself, he was really an anti-Whig. If he called himself a Radical, it was not from any affinity to Joseph Hume, but from antipathy to Earl Grey. If he followed Peel, it was from no community of principle, but in virtue of a community of opposition. With the period of Sybil and Coningsby he appears to have matured something like a distinct political ideal, which never, however, approached realisation. The importance of great, but it is accompanied by a corre- these two novels as indicating the lasting

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E.C.

attitude of his mind has been much overestimated, but no doubt his "Young Englandism" was as genuine as it certainly is interesting. But here disastrously comes in Mr. Froude's personal equation. He affiliates the subject of his latest book to the subjects of earlier writings. He connects Disraeli's views at this time with the Oxford Movement and with Carlyle. This is doing a double injustice. Disraeli's mediaevalism is like Pugin's Gothic—it was ignorant sentimentalism; a very distant imitation of reality. Great as he was, there was no real affinity between his mind and Newman's. On the other hand, his thoughts were at least the thoughts of a man of sense and a statesman. As a politician, Mr. Froude may compare him to a mere Queen's counsel, but he had at least a lucid mind. He knew what he meant, and could express his meaning in English, which, if turgid, was still intelligible. It is hard upon him actually to make him sit, even for the briefest possible period, at the feet of one who paid him the unconscious homage of his most particular detestation.

One is all the more disposed to think that Mr. Froude's personal bias has misled him as to the sincerity of Disraeli's Young Englandism, by observing that his speculations about what might have been have brought him to the conclusion that both of the great Tory leaders of this century, Peel and Disraeli, actually went most wrong when they have generally seemed most to have gone right. Peel's Free Trade policy, whatever may be said for its sincerity, and even for its success, was in the light of Mr. Froude's higher statesmanship but a maladroit and unhappy episode. Disraeli's six years of triumph from 1874 to 1880 were in fact years of the saddest of all failure, years of wasted opportunity and mistaken endeavour. Mr. Froude writes too much from the point of view of the present. He has antedated his argument for protection, and put the case of the Tory squires in 1845 as the naval alarmists put it in 1890; and surely he has considerably anticipated the date of the "policy of sewage." He appears, in stating He appears, in stating them, to sanction views of Disraeli about his greater antagonist, which were perhaps never quite seriously meant, and in doing so does Peel great injustice.

"He took the course, which promised most immediate success. To restore authority required an aristocracy who could be trusted to use it, and there was none such ready to hand. Wages must be left to the market where he found them. All that he could do to help the people was to cheapen the food which was bought with them, to lay taxation on the shoulders best able to bear it, and by education and such other means as he could provide to enable the industrious and the thoughtful to raise themselves, since neither legislation nor administration could raise them. Cheap food and popular education was his highest ideal. could see what was immediately before him clearer than any man. His practical sagacity forbade him to look farther or deeper.

"But the difficulty of his position lay in his

having been brought into power as a Protec-tionist. The constituencies had given him his

emancipation? All reasonable Conservatives knew that the Corn Laws must be modified, but the change, if inevitable, need not be precipitate. Peel's great defect, Disraeli said in his 'Life of Lord George Bentinck,' was that he wanted imagination, and in wanting that he wanted prescience. No one was more sagacious when dealing with the circumstances before him. His judgment was faultless provided that he had not to deal with the future. But insight into consequences is the test of a true statesman, and, because Peel had it not, Catholic emancipation, parliamentary reform, and the abrogation of the commercial system were carried in haste or in passion without conditions or mitigatory arrangements. On Canning's death, the Tories might have had the game in their hands. A moderate reconstruction of the House of Commons, the transfer of the franchises of a few corrupt boroughs to the great manufacturing towns, would have satisfied the country. Peel let the moment pass, and the Birmingham Union and the Manchester economic school naturally followed. His policy was to resist till resistance was ineffectual, and then to grant wholesale concessions as a premium to political agitation."

Of Disraeli, in 1874, there is an equally speculative and unhistoric judgment.

"Two unsettled problems lay before him after his Cabinet was formed, both of which he knew to be of supreme importance. Ireland, he was well aware, could not remain in the condition in which it had been left by his predecessors. . . . The passions of the Irish nation had been excited; they had been led to believe that the late measures were a first step towards the recovery of their independence. Seeds of distraction had been sown broadcast, which would inevitably sprout at the first favourable opportunity. A purely English minister, with no thought but for English interests, and put in possession of sufficient power to make himself obeyed, would, I think, have seized the opportunity to reorganise the internal government of Ireland. The land question might have been adjusted on clear and equitable lines, the just rights secured of owners and occupiers alike. The authority of the law could have been restored, nationalist visions extinguished, and a permanent settle-ment arrived at which might have lasted for another century. . . . This was one great subject. The other was the relation of the colonies to the mother country. . . . Difficult such a task would have been, for the political and practical ties had been too completely severed; but the greatness of a statesman is measured by the difficulties which he overcomes. Whether it was that Disraeli felt that he was growing old, that he wished to signalise his reign by more dazzling exploits which would promise immediate results; whether it was that he saw the English nation impatient of the lower rank in the counsels of Europe, to which it had been reduced by the foreign policy of his predecessors . . . but it is idle to speculate on motives. The two great problems which he could have, if not settled, yet placed on the road to settlement, he decided to pass by. He left Ireland to simmer in con-fusion. His zeal for the consolidation of the Empire was satisfied by the title with which he decorated his sovereign. . . . Disraeli failed as he deserved to fail. He thought that he was reviving patriotic enthusiasm, and all that he did was to create jingoism.'

It is political judgments such as these that compel one to mistrust Mr. Froude's account of the true position of Disraeli among English statesmen. Either history

Grey's, by all political diagnosis inevitable. Either there is no trust to be put in economic facts, or, in postponing a thorough-going reform of the Corn Laws, Peel would have been giving up the most solid of commercial advantages for the problematical profit of a traffic in commercial treaties. The matter has very little to do with the moral condition of the nation. We should not have been any the more virtuous if we had remained poorer, and Carlylean denunciations are just as much or as little applicable to the nineteenth century as to the ninth or the twenty-ninth. To suggest that the disestablishment of the Irish Church and the Land Act of 1870 had seriously been meant, or had generally been taken, as intimations that national independence would be given if cried for loudly enough, is a misreading of all the facts. Anyone who thinks that Disraeli, who came into power largely because Mr. Gladstone had harassed and alienated so many in-terests, would have been allowed by his followers to convulse Ireland with further drastic land reforms, or to embark on some enterprise of colonial constitutionalism, of which no one even yet has been able to devise the detail, must have completely forgotten the condition of political feeling from 874 to 1878.

Says Mr. Froude again, in conclusion:

He made no lofty pretensions, and his aims were always perhaps something higher than he professed. If to raise himself to the summit of the eminence was what he most cared for, he had a genuine anxiety to serve his party, and in serving his party to serve his country; and in serving his party to serve his country; and possibly, if among his other gifts he had inherited an English character, he might have devoted himself more completely to great national questions; he might have even inscribed his name in the great roll of English worthies. But he was English only by adoption, and he never completely identified himself with the country which he ruled. At heart he was a Hebrew to the end; and of all his triumphs peakers the west esticiting was his triumphs perhaps the most satisfying was the sense that a member of that despised race had made himself the master of the fleets and armies of the proudest of Christian nations.'

This is the verdict rather of an accomolished writer of romance than of a serious historian. It is in line with a plan which dilates upon Disraeli's youth and follies at the expense of the marvellous years of detestable drudgery from 1848 to 1867. But so much of it as is true misses the point, and much of it is not true. Disraeli was a supreme Parliamentary tactician; he was a master of sarcasm, always cutting if often laboured; he was the cunning lapidary of polished phrases; he was a witty novelist, a speculator upon history, whose views were ingenious though not well-informed. But to say so much of him and leave it there is unjust. No doubt his personality is one of the most interesting to be found in modern times. For sheer pluck in face of the heaviest odds, for splendid victory on his own merits, Disraeli stands almost without a rival. But there was a great deal more in him than this, and his greatest feat and greatest service to his country is one that Mr. Froude ignores. It is that he was able, as leader of the Conservative party, in majority in reply to his own Protectionist declaration. If Free Trade was to be made the law of the land, was Peel to repeat the part which he had played in Catholic form, not substantially different from Lord greatest service to his country is one that Mr. Froude ignores. It is that he was able, as leader of the Conservative party, in American phrase, to "keep the procession"

moving." He performed to the Liberals the inestimable service of making their opponents once more a possible majority. It was a great gain for his country that he taught his party to get into line with the inevitable democracy, to secure itself a future in the new world, the old world having passed away, and to adapt the enduring principles of the party of caution and order to the new conditions of a widely disseminated franchise. It was from him that his party learnt neither to sulk in their tents nor to rail at accomplished facts, neither to bewail a golden past that never existed, nor to anticipate cataclysms that never arrive, but to be once more what they want to be, and what the country wants them to be-a practical fighting party. And it is this which is Disraeli's monumentum aere perennius.

DEC. 27, 1890.—No. 973.]

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J. A. HAMILTON.

Vulgar Verses. By Jones Brown. (Reeves and Turner.)

THE author of this volume, written for the most part in Lancashire dialect—not, however, the Lancashire of Waugh and Brierley and Prince-would, one supposes, be the last person to plead guilty to a charge of vulgarity properly so-called, whether brought against his subject-matter or his mode of treating it; and of such a hypothetical accusation we, for our part, make haste to acquit him. There is indeed nothing that incurs the just reproach of vulgarity in these wholesome and honest rhymes. But their author is an unbending realist, to use the current slang of criticism. And having said this, it is perhaps almost needless to add that he is not quite innocent of a tendency to make his people and their words and ways a little more real than the reality; while another propensity, usual with the hardened and irreclaimable realist, is also observable—the propensity to flout and set at nought, with a certain not wholly unmalicious wantonness, the prejudices (no doubt lamentable) of nice and genteel persons. That very estimable young woman, Hannah, in "The Canvassers," says:—

"So, as I was a-sayin', I stood on the sill, Sniffin' and lookin' an' thinkin' no harm; An' for all I did nothing but just stand still, The sweat ran down in grimy streaks Over my forehead an' over my cheeks, An' I wiped it off wi' the thick o' my arm "-

a very natural and most proper action on Hannah's part. But why should the particular circumstance necessitating such an action be so frequently described and circumstantially dwelt upon in these pages? Even in Lancashire, it can hardly be that the pores are stimulated to such almost incessant excretory activity as numerous passages in this volume might lead the natives of other counties to suppose; or, even if they are, we cannot think that egotistical allusions to the matter can come so near to forming the staple of Lancashire conversation as an uninstructed alien might imagine after reading the very able volume before us. Certainly this local peculiarity, if it really exists, has not struck other travellers who have penetrated into the interior of the county palatine as it seems to have working-class point of view; and the result oscuro,

struck Jones Brown. Its discovery has been is that his character-pieces are genuinely left to the latest literary explorer of Darkest Lancashire—a phrase which is not inapplicable to those coal-mining districts which are his chosen province.

We are also dissatisfied with Jones Brown for confining himself to such a limited range of female character, as well as for appearing to insist too much upon our sharing his admiration of certain types which, on the whole, are not the most winsome. We feel sure there are in Lancashire, as elsewhere, young women endowed with many charms not less irresistible than an aptitude for giving an unappreciated admirer "one in the eye," or a readiness to knock him down if neces-Indeed, the uninstructed alien to whom reference has already been made might imagine from Jones Brown's testimony that the men of Lancashire were as invariably puny as the maidens are Amazonian, so frequent are the contemptuous allusions which the latter make to the physical inferiority of the former. The truth is, the big, brawny, and rather ag-gressive young woman is slightly overdone in this volume, and her softer sister is, by implication, somewhat disparaged. In the long run these rather epicene heroines are unattractive; and we are grateful when the author gives us a picture like that of "Our Ann," who, besides being "a tall, athletic maid," had "innocent soft eyes," and an agreeable freedom from pugnacity.

'Such arms! they were the boast and pride And glory of the country side— The wonder of the town; No other maiden near or far Had arms so large and muscular, So round, so red, so brown.

From wrist to shoulder they were bare, Both out of doors and everywhere, For work and not for show; No wonder they were plump and fine— Ripened by all the suns that shine, And all the winds that blow."

We are sorry to find poor Ann, with those arms, coming to grief in the end. The little poem that celebrates her massive beauties and bewails her eventual fate is admirable throughout, and is touched with true pathos—a quality which we regret to find so rarely attempted in these pages, for it is never attempted unsuccessfully. We it is never attempted unsuccessfully. are also inclined to lament the comparative scarcity of humour in the volume, and to regard such a deficiency as rather uncharacteristic of the locality dealt with; for if the spirit of broad and rough fun is to be found anywhere, it is to be found among Lancashire folk, yet this book has not the ingredients of a hearty laugh between its two covers. But the defect has a basis of merit; for, after all, laughter, even the kindliest, is perhaps (as Shelley, who wanted it "put down," seems to have thought) incompatible with perfect sympathy and insight. And the author of Vulgar Verses succeeds too well in imaginative identification of himself with his human creations to be lightly sensible of any element of mere comedy in their lot-more especially of such comedy as the spectator, not the actor, is alone aware of and amused by.

dramatic, without having anything of the pre-determined air of "studies." To illustrate what is meant, take the following sufficiently unpretentious stanzas, put into the mouth of a servant-girl narrating an interview with her future mistress:

"Her axed me, could I cook?
An' could I fettle an' clean? But her words was as hard as a printed book For to reckon up what they mean.

"Still, I reckon'd 'em up at last,
For I studied afore I spoke:
You munna get on wi' yer talk too fast,
When you're in wi' the gentle-folk.

"Bless you, it's on'y their way
As they learn 'em when they're young: They've allas gotten a summat to say On the very tip o' their tongue.

"Aye, but it's bad to make out;
It inna plump nor plain;
You're tied to think what it's all about
Afore you answer again."

That is a case of real insight into the illiterate mind, together with an unusually vivid recognition of the curious disparity between the vocabularies of different social classes. We have heard often enough of the dignity of labour, but here is a quite novel revelation of its delectableness:

Eh, what a pleasure, to kneel wi' yor two bare arms kep' tight, Stiff from the shoulders down, both hands wi'

all your might Grippin' the big floor brush, an' pressin' it down

a shove Into the grain o' the boards, till the dirt begins to move !

For you drives it up an' down, as fast as your arms 'ull go, Churnin' the black dirt up to mud, as yo thrusts

it to an' fro.

An' of coorse the brush is soaked i'the water out

An' of coorse the brush is sourced i the water out o' your pail,
An' the mud splashes up again yo like showers o' upcast hail,
Till your face is all ower black, an' your hands an' arms, an' your breast,
An' the sweat keeps pourin' off you, for you cappa ston to rest.

canna stop to rest,
An' you looks at your two black arms for a
place, an' canna find none, Not one clean spot o' the thick o' your arm, for

to wipe your face upon! It is, however, in the group of poems dealing with the life of the pit-brow women of the Lancashire coal districts that Jones Brown achieves his most special success. In most of these, the dialect is much more fullflavoured than in any of the pieces from which the foregoing quotations have been made, and it would most likely prove a somewhat obstinate barrier to the uninitiated reader. Poems like "T'Pointsman," "Eawr Liz," "Th' Owd Cabin," and "Heaving Day" embody a phase of life which, so far as we know, has not elsewhere been accorded the distinction of literary embalmment, at least in verse; while "Jenny o' Eaw Pit" reverts with somewhat grim and painful power to a now closed chapter of labourhistory—an industrial era having some features which legislation has since very properly effaced, but which are here recalled to imaginative life with undeniably fine effect. In this and some other pieces the human figures stand out against their dusky and grimy background with a sharpness of Jones Brown's great excellence is his power of realising with intuitive precision the Rembrandtesque in its intensity of chiar-

Before taking leave of these poems—the great merits of which we are forbidden by considerations of space alone to illustrate by extracts, and which are as remarkable for their deep human feeling as for their seemingly unintentional picturesqueness, and the power they exhibit of drawing realisable and convincingly authentic human portraits, with a few strong, firm outlines that leave nothing vague-we would take occasion to remark that their author has not entirely solved the problem of an orthography which shall be at once intelligible and accurately phonetic. For example, while "abaht" (about) indicates the local pronunciation with tolerable approach to exactness, the same cannot be said of "grahmy" (grimy) where the vowel-sound is really a compound one, and is hardly even approximately rendered by ah. Perhaps this and some associated difficulties were practically insuperable; and it would be unfair not to add that the author of this volume has been more generally successful in grappling with such obstacles than any other writer whose works we know—unless it be the accomplished author of That Lass o' Lowrie's, who, by the way, has treated kindred themes with equal sympathy and power. standing difficulty of representing by printed signs the sound given to u, as in "just," has, however, been something of a stumblingblock to Jones Brown as to most writers of dialect. He writes "joost"; but this is an exaggeration of the sound, which really has its most obvious analogy in an educated person's pronunciation of the *u* in "bull" —and no compiler of a pronouncing dictionary would direct us to say "bool." To illustrate the crudity of Jones Brown's method in this particular, it is enough to mention that in one line he has "shoots' and "trooks," and he does not need us to tell him that the vowel-sounds in the two words are not identical in a Lancashire mouth. Is it not better to retain the u, superscribed with a modifying accent? We observe that he translates "more" into "moor"; but in the local vernacular this word is most often an emphatic dissyllable -"moo-er." On p. 148 we have "nae mair," which is surely wrong. And may we ask Jones Brown in what part of Lancashire, where the dialect is as broad as in some of his poems, would "coals" be pronounced other than "coils"?

This volume opens with a poem, "Queen Kara," which is oddly, not to say grotesquely, out of keeping with the other contents. It is, however, a picturesque story, told in verse that is admirable for flexibility and easy grace.

WILLIAM WATSON,

"Anecdota Oxoniensia."—Lives of Saints from the Book of Lismore. Edited by Whitley Stokes. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

This volume forms Part V. of the Mediaeval and Modern Series of the "Anecdota Oxoniensia." It is stated that MSS, contained in the Bodleian and other Oxford libraries are to have the preference when choice is being made of materials to be produced among these "Anecdota." Celtic

scholars have, therefore, some special reason to be grateful to Oxford for having included in this valuable series an Irish text, the property of the Duke of Devonshire, which is still preserved at Lismore Castle, where it The Book of was discovered in 1814. Lismore is a compilation made in the latter half of the fifteenth century from the lost Book of Monasterboice and other MSS. On a general account of its contents, and on a minute study of the Lives of nine Irish saints which have been extracted from it for the present volume, Mr. Stokes has here bestowed an amount of labour which leaves the most exacting student little to desire, and a wealth of scholarship which few of his contemporaries are competent to appraise.

The text itself is not of the first order of interest. The scribes to whom we owe its present form were "all more or less careless and ignorant," its language is a "mixed language" showing an imperfect and inconsistent modernisation of ancient forms, and the historical contents of the Lives are substantially given in other and more trust-worthy MSS. The Book of Lismore, however, relates many miracles which are not to be found elsewhere; and the details which surround these miracles are doubtless authentic, and, therefore, as Mr. Stokes observes, "of value for the student of the social condition of the ancient Irish, and of their religious tenets and practices.' if the book adds but little to existing information on these subjects, we must remember that a thorough and scholarly edition of an Irish text is in itself something of a rarity, and that no labour is thrown away which brings us, as this volume certainly does, into helpful contact with an historical document of the great antiquity which can confidently be attributed to the contents of the Book of

Everyone knows how Carlyle fared when he began the study of ancient Irish history with the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick. After a certain number of grotesque θαύματα—the mere childish appeals to the sense of the marvellous with which Irish hagiology is so disfigured—had presented themselves to his ken, he laid down the folio in melancholy wrath and abjured thenceforward the study of Celtic antiquities. It is unfortunate that he should have chosen to begin with Colgan's miscellany of miracles instead of with Patrick's own Confession and Epistle to Coroticus *-writings whose piety, sincerity, and noble human worth, no spirit could have responded to more warmly than his own; but even in the hagiology he would have found much to delight him. Take, for instance, this episode from the Life of St. Patrick, in the present volume :

"After that Patrick went into the province of Munster, to Cashel of the Kings. And Oengus, son of Natfraich, King of Munster, met him, and made him welcome. And Oengus then believed in God and in Patrick, and he was baptised, and a multitude of the men of Munster along with him. Now, when Patrick was blessing the head of Oengus, the spike of the crozier went through his foot. So, after

the end of the Benediction, Patrick saw the wound in Oengus's foot. Said Patrick, 'Wherefore did'st thou not tell me?' 'Meseemed,' saith Oengus, 'that it was a rite of the faith.'"

The story of the stag which used to visit St. Ciaran's hermitage every day to offer its antlers as a rest for his psalter-a story related, indeed, of many other Celtic saints—has a quaint beauty of its own, and would have lent itself well to illustration by the hand to which we owe the magnificent engraving of the conversion of St. Hubert. The affectionate relations which prevailed between the Irish saints and the beast-creation come out frequently in these biographies. St. Columba's horse came, before the saint's death, and wept in his breast till his raiment was wet. A servant sought to drive him away, but the saint would not suffer it. Twelve holy men going on a voyage brought with them a "sea-cat," the size of a small bird, which
"was very dear to us." It afterwards grew
into a terrific monster, but never did them any hurt.

The most interesting of these biographies, from a literary point of view, is certainly the life of the warrior saint, Findchua of Brigown. It is only found in the Celtic. In it there are echoes of the early heroic legends, a higher order of literature altogether than the hagiology, which are rarely met with in the latter. His name (a fact not without significance) contains the word eu = "hound" (Findchua = "White Hound"), which is often met with in the names of the pagan heroes of the Conorian cycle—Cuchullin, Curoi, Cucorb, Conary (eu, gen. con) Conaill Cearnach, &c.—where it has a distinctly warlike meaning. The miracles recorded of Findchua are often simply ways of making us realise the terrible fierceness of his anger. Thus, when an overbearing king drove his horses on a monastery meadow which Findchua was guarding, the monk's wrath grew so hot that the cowl on his head was burned to ashes. When he scowled on the injurious king, the earth rose in billows against him and buried him to the knees. In battle, sparks of fire break from Findchua's teeth, and once an army of Danish marauders is consumed by him, nothing being left but charred bones and weapons. His anger could petrify like the Gorgon's gaze. When the Ulidians came down to battle with Findchua and his Munster men, he fixed them as they were stooping to the charge, and so "broke the battle upon them" and destroyed them. On that occasion the Munstermen were at first greatly disheartened by the number of their foes, the "forest of their weapons," and their splendid accoutrements. "The children of Niall are thrice our number," said they. "Then slay the surplus till you are equal," said Findchua, a reply which would surely have struck a spark of appreciation from Carlyle.

It should be mentioned that Mr. Stokes has accompanied these Lives with a translation at once vigorous and exact, qualities far from easy to combine in renderings from the Celtic. The essay on the language of the Lives contains a complete list of words borrowed from Latin and other non-Celtic sources; and we have also a general glossary containing, for the most part, only words

^{*} Let me refer the reader to an admirable English version of these writings, with full editorial introduction, by the late Sir S. Ferguson (Dublin: Sealy, Bryers & Walker).

which are not found in Windisch's Wörterbuch-features which will be of special service to that Irish lexicographer whose advent is still a subject of pious hope.

T. W. ROLLESTON.

Fifty Years in Ceylon. An Autobiography. By the late Major Thomas Skinner, Commissioner of Public Works, Ceylon. Edited by his daughter, Annie Skinner. (W. H. Allen.)

SIR MONIER WILLIAMS, in the brief preface which he has contributed to this volume, remarks that the biography tells its own tale-that the living individual, exhaling British pluck and energy from every pore, seems to stand before us in sharply defined outline, a typical example of self-help and

self-reliance.

All this is strictly true. Major Skinner, justly called the great engineer and road-maker of Ceylon, was born in Newfoundland in 1804. At the age of fourteen he obtained a commission in the Ceylon Regiment, and continued to serve in the island until his final retirement in 1867. Nothing can be more vivid than his account of his early military life and adventures. By the time he was eighteen he had "bagged" half a dozen elephants; but in those days they simply swarmed in Ceylon, and shooting of all sorts was first-rate. He was little more than eighteen when he fought a duel, and with all the experience of after-life he did not consider the abolition of duelling an unmixed gain. He remarks that the change of tone in the language and conduct of gentlemen towards each other has been very marked and certainly not improved by the abolition of the old code of honour. He suffered from the climate of Ceylon, and underwent much more from the system of the doctors. This is the way he was treated for a jungle fever:

"I got over my attack, but it was a marvel that I did. One morning my doctor bled me till there was scarcely a drop of blood left in my body; he then gave me forty grains of calomel, and in the evening—as the fever was still raging—he ordered me to be taken out to the yard of my quarters, laid on a bare rattan couch, and buckets of cold water thrown over me for about twenty minutes! I was then put back to bed, and fortunately fell asleep for several hours. After some weeks on the sick list, I was able to return to my post at Korne-

It was early in his career that Major Skinner obtained an appointment on the roads, and he continued in that capacity till his retirement. When he was first appointed roads scarcely existed; indeed, a writer on Ceylon stated that, strictly speaking, there are no "roads in the island." The interior was then inaccessible, and parts actually unexplored. In the year 1832 he was ordered to open a road from Aripo, on the western coast, where the pearl fisheries were situated, to Anarajapora, about which so little was known that in the then latest maps the district was described as a mountainous unknown country. To the Major's astonishment, he found this mountainous country, when he succeeded in reaching it, thickly peopled, with magnificent

tanks of colossal dimensions, and with evidence of having been at an earlier date the granary of the island. At the time of his finally leaving Ceylon there was a magnificent net-work of roads spread over the country from the sea-level to the passes of the highest mountains; and instead of dangerous fords and ferries, in which life was frequently sacrificed, every principal stream was substantially bridged. In short, under his superintendence nearly 3,000 miles of roads were made, one-fifth of which were of the first class, and another fifth of excellent gravelled highways. All this may be attributed to his energy and capacity, and we must add that he was very inadequately rewarded for all he did for the island. Not that he ever even hints at this; he was certainly one of those fine characters so common two generations ago, to whom it was sufficient satisfaction that they did their duty.

Major Skinner's account of the various governors of the island is very interesting, and with all he maintained the best relations. The one of all whom he regarded with the deepest affection was that fine old soldier, Sir Edward Barnes, ever on the watch to encourage and help youngsters in whom he saw a promise of good in the future. Napoleon's jailor and butt, Sir Hudson Lowe, held the office of command-

ant of Colombo,

"never," say our author, "was a character more maligned; a more kind, I may say tenderhearted man, I never met with. For a military commander it almost amounted to a fault, for it was with extreme difficulty we could get him to notice irregularities or to punish breaches of discipline. He was very hospitable and generous; kept an excellent table and first-rate cellar."

Sir Monier Williams, who visited Ceylon in 1877, shortly before Major Skinner's death, found his reputation still fragrant there. He was a man whose memory the government still delighted to honour; and in travelling he met many eminent natives, who delighted to speak of him as one of their greatest benefactors, and as an officer of unusual administrative ability, indomitable energy, and unblemished integrity of

"' It would be difficult,' he says, " for any one to speak in exaggerated terms of the debt of obligation which the island owes to the man who is acknowledged by all to have been the first opener of its means of communication, and the carnest promoter of numerous important works, such as the improvement of irrigation and inland navigation, the encouragement of native talent, and the progress of education."

WM. WICKHAM.

NEW NOVELS.

Fra Lippo Lippi. By Margaret Vere Farrington. (Putnam's.)

Esther Pentreath. By J. H. Pearce. (Fisher Unwin.

Philosopher Dick. In 2 vols. By "Chamier." (Fisher Unwin.)

Bail Up. By Hume Nisbet. (Chatto & Windus.)

A Strange Wooing. By Charles Gibbon. (Ward & Downey.)

Scot Free. By C. G. Compton. Paul & Co.)

Who Poisoned Hetty Duncan? By Dick Donovan. (Chatto & Windus.)

Little Venice. By Grace Denis Litchfield. (Putnam's.)

OF all the artists of Italy there is none whose life appeals more to ordinary human sympathy than the blithe-spirited, impulsive Carmelite monk, the daring realist, Fra Lippo Lippi. Men like Fra Angelico, Raphael, Titian, and Lionardo seem so far above us all, not merely by their genius, but by their singular loftiness of life; while the very weaknesses of an Andrea del Sarto or a Filippo Lippi endear these painters to their fellow men, who realise that, genius apart, they are comrades indeed. Fra Lippo is among the most fortunate of his kin. He left, of course, his splendid achievement and his fruitful influence as a legacy to the country which claimed him as her son; but he has an immortality, also, in another and far wider world than that of Italy, in the art of words instead of that of line and colour, and in a language alien to his own. Probably of all Landor's "Imaginary Conversations" there is none more generally admired than that wherein the roguish friar of the Carmine tells the Pope of his experiences during his captivity in Barbary, an imaginary sketch in which something of the real Lippo Lippi is assuredly revealed. And among Browning's poems, again, it is doubtful if any is oftener re-read than that which tells of the daring successor to Masaccio, with his imperative claim for the body as well as the soul. After such distinguished predecessors, it was a rash undertaking for Mrs. Farrington to give us the story of Fra Lippo Lippi's life in the form of a romance. The obvious danger is a mere repetition of familiar facts and sayings, with (notwithstanding the different methods of treatment) an invitation to perilous comparisons. It is with pleasure, therefore, that the present writer, remembering Landor and Browning-to mention no others-admits that he has read Mrs. Farrington's sympathetic romance with keen appreciation from first to last. The book is charmingly written, and clearly by one who is familiar not only with the life and achievement of the great painter, but also with Florence, Prato, and all the lovely country of the Val d' Arno. The sketch of Filippo's boyhood is as vivid as it is succinet, though perhaps both there and in the later chapters the author has kept in the background the very potent "bodihood" of the celebrated Frate. The story how he came to paint Lucrezia Buti as the Madonna; how he loved and won the beautiful novice, and persuaded her to elope with him to Florence and become his wife; of his brief years of happiness and noble work; and of his tragic death, owing to the wrath of a revengeful Princess of the all-powerful Medicis, who had stooped to love him, ex-monk and mere painter as he was-all is told with a sympathy and grace which make the book really welcome. It is, moreover, handsomely bound and printed, and has the further

attraction of fourteen photogravures, including a portrait of Fra Lippo himself.

It is a high compliment to Mr. Pearce's Cornish romance to say that it is almost worthy of being ranked with Mr. Baring Gould's Mehalah. In vigour of style, in sombre realism, in strange and picturesque detail, Mr. Pearce is not inferior to the older author with whom he has so much in common. Esther Pentreath, however, is not wrought in the same reserve and simplicity as Mehalah, and the final impression is not so singulary strong and clear. There is not enough relief in the gloom; or, rather, too many gloomy and terrible scenes and episodes are introduced one upon the other, till at last the reader revolts against what seems an almost mechanical display of the workings of an imaginary doom. Mrs. Margaret Woods has shown us, in Λ Village Tragedy, how a story may be charged with the most unrelieved and even sordid gloom, and yet be at once a fascinating and genuine work of art; but to this end one must deal simply with simple details. Towards the close of his story Mr. Pearce harrows the reader's imagination till it almost becomes dulled. Death and Terror and Tragedy are omnipresent; and powerful as is the end, in its mingled bitterness and pathos, it does not strike one-perhaps it would be fairer to say it does not impress the present writer—so profoundly as, artistically, it ought to do. But from first to last the book is characterised by unmistakable power. It is long since I have read anything so surcharged with the Celtic sentiment; and one of the secrets of the charm of Esther Pentreath is that the author is obviously not merely a dispassionate describer of life among the Cornish mines, but is himself under the spell in whose shadow every personage in his story moves. Nor is the romance quite without that humour which makes tragedy doubly poignant. The widow Betty and the old scoundrel of a veteran, John Wesley Bucket, are delightful. Mistress Betty, indeed, with her fantastic absurdities, her real ignorance and assumed airs, her anxiety lest at her age she "do maake un [i.e., her whitehaired soldier-swain, now sobered to respectability by virtue of advanced years and his office of sexton] feel more shyer 'cause I happen to got curly heer, my dear?" and all her amusing ways, is a genuine creation. Mr. Pearce is a poet as well as a novelist; and, indeed, no one could read Esther Pentreath without realising this. The passion of the sea is upon him, as upon all Celtic natures: a passion quite distinct from the perhaps deeper love of the Englishman, who has towards the sea the attitude rather of a masterful lover than of an awed but The breath of nature entranced slave. blows through the book, and this is a delight in itself. If it be Mr. Pearce's first work in fiction, he may rest assured that he has found his métier.

Philosopher Dick is a provoking book. It is so bright in parts that its shortcomings are the more intolerable. The author—who, by the way, prefers anonymity, if one may

the back of the cover of each volume-knows up-country life in New Zealand horoughly, and is able to give most vivid pictures of scenes and episodes familiar to all who have "followed mutton" in the Anti-podes. If he had restricted himself to a story of incident he would have done better; the weak portions of the book are the ambitious flights of rhetoric and speculation. There is a good deal of what is intended for humour-characteristic, no doubt, but too often as uninteresting, and sometimes as coarse in innuendo, as "the everlasting sheep" themselves. One or two passages, indeed, are in extraordinarily bad taste, being introduced wholly unnecessarily, and, therefore, obtrusively. Then, the book is much too long. The greater part of the second volume is of that quality which might be spun out indefinitely without obvious weakening. The author, probably, could write some clever and entertaining sketches of shepherd-life in the form of short tales. Philosopher Dick simply proves that his philosophy is of a rather shallow kind, and that in "the novel" he has not found his true vocation. Nevertheless, there is much that is bright and interesting in the book. It has the great merit of verisimilitude; and though in his description of the particular and general details which make up the background of his tale, the author is often redundant and "lets himself go" too freely, he has clearly a keen eye for and a true love of nature. Occasionally the style improves so much that one is inclined to believe the story must have been written in sections, at long intervals; but, even in the more careful chapters, there are constant reminders of inexperience in literary craft.

Bail Up, which is another narrative of wild life at the Antipodes, is at once a much less ambitious, and a much more interesting, and, indeed, much better written story than *Philosopher Dick*. Mr. Hume-Nisbet has already the Hilliam Physical A. by his Land of the Hibiscus Blossom, A Colonial Tramp, and other pleasant records of travel and adventure; but in his latest book he has shown a faculty for plot and exciting narrative which makes one surprised he has not, before this, given us Australasian romances of the same kind. Bail Up is a story of up-country life in Queensland. Naturally the book is, as a genuine study of early colonial days, the more worth attention from the fact that the author not only revisited some four years ago the localities he describes so vividly, but a quarter of a century earlier himself participated in the vigorous, rough, exciting life of the then sparsely populated colony. Brisbane no longer has its unwelcome parasite, Paradise Plain; and one may ride the length of the Darling Downs and un-measured leagues without the least danger of being "stuck-up" by bushrangers, or even molested by vagrant blacks; but, for the rest, up-country life is even now pretty much what it was five-and-twenty years ago. Mr. Hume Nisbet's description of the Fan-Tan dens of the Chinese quarter of Brisbane will be recognised not only by old Queenslanders, but also by those who, even in judge from the absence of any name on the title-page, though "Chamier" appears on Melbourne, Sydney, and San Francisco. extinct!

Poor John Chinaman comes in for so much abuse that it is pleasant to find him as a hero, however tarnished, in Mr. Nisbet's romance; for Wung-ti deserves that rarely abused title almost as much as any of his European companions in good and evil, trouble and misfortune, dire peril and suffering, and ultimate welfare. Bail Up is quite the best book of its kind that has been published during the last year or two.

Posthumous novels have been quite the vogue of late. The late Charles Gibbon produced so much excellent fiction of a kind not a very high kind, it is true, though as a delineator of Scottish life and character as it really is he had few rivals-that it is a matter of regret not to be able to say something more in praise of A Strange Wooing than that it is fairly interesting. The plot is commonplace, the working out of the leading motive is awkward, and the characterisation is at once feeble and conventional. A Colonel Quinton is the villain of the story; but, from the outset, he could impress only readers of the London Journal type-indeed, the unnecessarily elaborate lie indulged in by Quinton concerning the death of his friend, Sir Hubert Bevan, is in itself proof that Mr. Gibbon had never actually realised the shadowy conception of the chief personage in his tale. Skilful and shrewd man of the world as the would-be murderer is represented, his clumsy narrative and clumsier subterfuges cannot be accepted as credible. For the rest, A Strange Wooing is merely a weak following of the notable lead given by Mr. Clark Russell in his John Holdsworth, Chief Mate—though in the latter the reader is allured from scepticism by the skill and charm of the narrative, while in Mr. Gibbon's book Mr. Livingstone (the long lost Sir Hubert Bevan) is too unreal to win the reader's sympathies.

The author of Scot Free has spoilt a readable story, firstly, by the introduction of an altogether improbable method of removing one Robert Dixon from life-improbable, at least, in the circumstances describedand secondly, by making his heroine, Agnes, take on herself a life-long sorrow, simply on the strength of a letter from a semiimbecile named George Crosby, who writes a terrible indictment of her husband, Austin Cartwright, as the murderer of Robert Dixon. Not only would such a letter by itself be valueless in a murder trial, but could scarce be credited even by the most suspicious sane person. As for Agnes Cartwright, it was her duty to have at once shown Crosby's letter to her husband, whom she had every reason to believe incapable of the crime. Robert Dixon is supposed to come to his death by means of nicotinepoisoning; Crosby, whose madness shows itself in an irresistible secret "shadowing" of certain people, sees, or believes he sees, Cartwright inject some of the poison into his victim's wrist as he lies unconscious in his arm-chair. Scot Free is one of that multitude of novels which would be infinitely better worth reading were they condensed into short tales. But literary economy is almost as rare as literary charity-and that, as we have been recently told, is becoming

Lovers of detective stories can always be sure of entertainment with Dick Donovan as the teller. His latest volume, which contains eleven short stories, does not perhaps show him quite at his best; but all the tales are interesting, and some are clever. It is unfortunate that the one which gives its name to the volume is the poorest of the set.

It is not often that a volume of short tales by a new writer is so welcome as Miss Grace Denis Litchfield's Little Venice, and other Stories. Miss Litchfield's name is new, on this side of the Atlantic at any rate; but each of her eight stories is good enough to win her as many readers here as each did on its first appearance in The Century, The Atlantic Monthly, or other American magazine. "Little Venice" itself, an idyl of the St. Clair Flats, is as perfect a short story as one could find in the magazines of either continent. The author has humour, pathos, a keen love for the unconventionally picturesque in nature, and an instinctive charm of style; so it is to be hoped she will give us more of such delectable literary fare. WILLIAM SHARP.

GIFT BOOKS.

The Vicar of Wakefield. By Oliver Goldsmith. With a Preface by Austin Dobson, and Illustrations by Hugh Thomson (Macmillan). Every Christmas brings with it one or two books which the popular verdict quickly distinguishes among their thousand rivals as the most desirable of the year. Lewis Carroll, Mrs. Molesworth, Mrs. Ewing, Mr. R. L. Stevenson, Mr. Rider Haggard-to name only the foremost have each in their turn deservedly won this pre-eminent place. More rarely the honours are taken by an artist, such as Ralph Caldecott, Kate Greenaway, and Mr. Linley Sambourne. The turn has now come to Mr. Hugh Thomson, who has set the seal to all his former efforts by associating his own name for the future with Goldsmith's immortal romance. In a preface, characteristically inspired by equal shares of learning and taste, Mr. Austin Dobson touches upon previous illustrated editions-English, German, and French—concluding with the remark that none has represented the lighter and the graver aspects of the story with the same success. To Mr. Hugh Thomson, no doubt, the humour appeals most strongly, as might be expected from the illustrator of Days with Sir Roger de Coverley. But though it is in humour that he is supreme—witness the inimitable head- and tail-pieces—he is only one degree less happy with his demure damsels, elegant swains, and chubby boys; nor has he failed in the pathetic. We shall not single out any drawing for special comment, since the common praise is due to all, that none is unworthy of its subject or of its fellows. Our only complaint is that the margin of the ordinary issue is independent. ordinary issue is inadequate; and it is small compensation to know that all the large-paper copies have already been bought up by the wise

"THE ADVENTURE SERIES."—The Buccaneers and Marooners of America. Illustrated. Edited by Howard Pyle. (Fisher Unwin.) It is impossible to spoil altogether such a subject as the buccaneers of the Spanish main; but the editor has done his best. Admirable as an illustrator, and qualified also by some study of

slipshod, and in avoiding just the precise information we have a right to look for. He has even left it obscure how far he has faithfully reproduced his original authorities. We protest, also, against the use of the title "marooners as applied to such pirates pur sang as Kid and Avery and Bartholomew Roberts. Of the contents of the book it is enough to say that they are taken from the English translation (1684) of John Esquemeling's De Americaensche Zee Roovers, with reproductions of some of the plates, and from Captain Charles Johnson's later Histories. We have here the raw materials upon which a thousand fictitious stories have been based; a chapter torn fresh from the book of actual life; realistic history, without the halo of romance; a narrative of sordid crime, marked by cowardice and treachery, and most often ending at the gallows.

Cutlass and Cudgel. By E. Manville Fenn. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) Mr. Fenn does not display, in this story, quite the amount of ability exhibited in some of his other works notably, Dick o' the Fens-with which it may be compared. But it is a good, lively story of—as, indeed, the title indicates—a protracted conflict between smugglers and their natural enemies, the men of a revenue cutter. The two sides in the fight are well represented by Archie Raystoke, a midshipmite, and the little imp Ram Shackle, the son of one of the smugglers, who, after a deal of plotting and counterplotting, and even engaging in single combat, figure in the end, after the accomcombat, figure in the end, after the accom-plishment of Archie's special mission, as the best of friends. The narrative has no sentimental background to speak of. What there is is sufficiently well supplied by Celia, the daughter of Sir Risdon Graeme, a gentle-man who is unfortunately in alliance with the smugglers, Possibly, if Cutlass and Cudgel had a sequel, Celia and Archie would figure in it as a very happy and pretty pair. stirring story of adventure, however, it can stand very well by itself.

By England's Aid: or, the Freeing of the Netherlands. By G. A. Henty. (Blackie.) Boys have already given their hearty approval to Mr. Henty for the historical and other tales which flow from his prolific pen. They are not likely to withhold it from the very substantial volume which he now offers them. follows Mr. Clement Markham rather than Mr. Motley in his estimate of Sir Frances Vere, and with his usual skill and vigour recounts the adventures and vicissitudes which befell two English lads in the great struggle which destroyed the supremacy of Spain. The tale has a solid basis of fact, which boys will find useful and schoolmasters helpful.

Dumps and I. By Mrs. Parr. (Methuen.) Mrs. Parr is to be congratulated on having written another charming story for girls. There is both humour and pathos in the book. We have some capital descriptions of country life; and the sleepy old town of Mallett, with its straggling streets, its gabled houses, and butcher's shop, with an old elm-tree before its door, planted well by a curbstone and propped with a stout iron crutch, because Cromwell, they say, once sat under its shadow, is well portrayed. The crippled hero, "Dumps," is a delightful creation, and there is a boyish vigour in young "Sir Jasper" which makes a happy contrast. The story turns on the revenge of an old solicitor, who, wedded to a country belle in his youth, is resolved at her death to revenge himself on her relations have disowned her. The plot is that worked out, and there is plenty of incident in the tale. There is a humorous touch in the the period, Mr. Howard Pyle has yet to learn the rudiments of an editor's duties. In his introduction he succeeds in talking all round his subject in language that is lamentably unworthy of Cranford. She takes her leave by

saying—"Having a little independence put by, she thinks that with this fait accompli she will take her congé of the monde des modes.

Maggie in Mythica. By F. B. Doveton. (Sonnenschein.) It is impossible to avoid drawing a comparison between this pretty little book and our old friend, Alice in Wonder-In subject and treatment the two land. stories resemble one another, and even in their illustrations each suggests the other. But as T. H. Wilson is to John Tenniel so is F. B. Doveton to Lewis Carroll. The Welsh Rabbit is a pale reflection of the Mock Turtle, and King Cole of Topsy Turvydom and his vixenish wife are inferior alike in humour and originality to the crowned heads of Wonderland. But Maggie, will, nevertheless, amuse young people, for the old theme never tires, and there are plenty of recesses in Fairyland still unexplored.

'Twixt School and College. By Gordon Stables, M.A. (Blackie.) The period of hobbledehoyhood is a troublesome one; but, if it could be employed as Dr. Stables suggests in this capital book, parents and guardians would have little cause for complaint. Most boys and many girls have an interest in natural history which only needs development, and the pleasure that comes from the study of the habits of animals is free from all objections. We are not sure that we can agree with Dr. Stables when he says:

"I have all my life had an idea that providence places pets in the hands of those who really love His creatures, rather than in the possession of people who neither care for nor understand them." In our experience, the pet sometimes falls out of favour when a new object has attracted attention, and if discarded favourites could speak we should hear some sad tales of thoughtless neglect. The illustrations are excellent; and the book, with its useful hints on pet management, and its picture of students' life at Aberdeen, is sure to become popular.

Eastward Ho! A Story for Girls. By Emma Marshall. (Nisbet.) Mrs. Marshall's numerous youthful admirers are not likely to be disappointed by her new story, which has plenty of incident and is pleasantly told. The reference of the title is not to the eastern hemi sphere, but to the East End of London; and the heroine of the tale is the grand-daughter of an earl and a prospective peeress in her own right, who is redeemed from selfishness, bad temper, and other naughty dispositions, by being brought into contact with the dwellers in the other half of the world. There are some improbabilities in the book, and when the earnest young man Dalrymple talks to Pauline "for her good," he becomes both preachy and priggish; but even in these respects Eastward Ho! compares favourably with many stories of its class.

Very Young, and Quite Another Story. Jean Inglelow. (Longmans.) We should have the greatest pleasure in according a warm welcome to any work by a lady who has written such charming verses as Miss Ingelow, but it is difficult to say much in praise of Very Young and Quite Another Story. Very Young is poor enough, but Quite Another Story is, if possible, poorer still. There is indeed no story at all. There are a certain number of characters and incidents; but the characters are without individuality, and the incidents are not amusing. The book is a series of uninteresting scenes, unredeemed by any picturesqueness of description or briskness in the dialogue. The tale drags itself on from page to page in a desultory, disjointed manner, until it tardily, but nevertheless unexpectedly, ends in the marriage of Andrew Capper with Daisy Smith. The worst of it is that the reader has no satisfaction in this denouement, as he has never

learnt throughout the whole 314 pages to care twopence about either Andrew or Daisy, or to suspect that they care twopence for one another.

612

The Rajah's Legacy. By David Ker. Illustrated by A. W. Cooper. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) This happens to be the first book of Mr. David Ker's that we have read, though we are aware that he has attained a reputation by former stories for boys. Of this, we can only say that it seems to us a jumble of improbabilities, put together without art. As the title implies, the scene is laid in India; but we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Ker's knowledge of that country is derived merely from books. He gives to a Sikh the name of Mahmud, and makes an Englishman turn Mahonmedan in order to become heir to a Raja. Such things may be trifles; but they spoil the verisimilitude, especially when the author is always adding in a footnote, "This is a fact."

Holland and its People. By Edmondo de Amicis. Translated from the Italian by Caroline Tilton. (Putnam's.) Every country has produced of late years a book or books about Holland, and many of them have been translated into English. They are of two kinds. One, represented by Mr. Boughton, M. Havard, and others, gives us much of the writer's own thoughts and impressions of the country and the people, the other is more or less of the guidebook order. M. de Amicis's volume is something between the two, but gravitates towards the lower class. Personal notes are scarce; he went and saw what everyone goes to see, and his book is made up of gossip about the "sights," with "excursions" on the history and the works of art. It is all very pleasant, and the text is interspersed with pretty little pictures; but there is nothing very new or striking in it all—nor is this to be wondered at, since it was written several years ago.

Love and Justice. By Helen Shipton. (S.P.C.K.) This is an interesting story, with an unusually well worked-out plot. The account of the poor deformed tailor Martin, whose independent spirit feels bitterly the seeming injustice of his lot, and who finds in the end that his life is being ruled by Almighty Love, is told with much skill and pathos. The chief characters are all carefully drawn; and there are also many exciting incidents, such as an escape from a burning house, and a desperate struggle with a robber. We can recommend this book to all parish libraries.

Amina: A Tale of the Nestorians. By Edward L. Cutts. (S.P.C.K.) Mr. Cutts has apparently two objects in view in this short tale: firstly, to give his readers a glimpse of the customs and religious ideas of Persian Christians; and, secondly, to arouse sympathy with them in their ill-treatment by the Kurds and the Turkish government. Both these objects would be helped by a preface telling us to what extent the tale is actual fact. As fiction it has no special merits, and is scarcely worthy of Mr. Cutts's abilities. The facts are certainly interesting and curious, but we are left without any means of knowing whether they are true.

Claude and Claudius. By Mrs. Herbert Martin. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) The authoress has not been happy in her selection of a subject. A foolish marriage, a misunderstanding between father and son, and a death-bed scene where some of the errors of the past are condoned—these are scarcely the ingredients wherewith to compose a suitable Christmas present for children. Nor do we think the style will prove attractive to young readers. For example:

"The Scotchman, brought up on the sour milk of

rigid Calvinism, in throwing this overboard had thrown with it most other religious theories, and was calmly and professedly of the day and the world; the scholar and half-recluse was in his own way a man of firm, though rather mournful faith; neither objected to the other's views."

Do children want this sort of analysis?

Poor and Plain: a story for Elder Girls. By the author of "Dethroned," &c. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) Although this tale begins and ends sadly, yet in the main it is pleasant reading and wholesome. Lucy Everard, an almost penniless orphan, and without even the dower of good looks, finds in the path of duty the path which leads to happiness. We think the book would have been all the better if its last chapter had been omitted.

Unlucky. By Caroline Austin. (Blackie.) This book justifies its ill-omened title. It is the dismal record of a spirited and unruly but well-meaning child, whose ill-qualities are fostered, while her good qualities are repressed, through the injudicious management of her stepmother. Though well-intentioned, and conveying an oft-needed lesson to parents and guardians, the book and its conclusion are alike dreary and repulsive.

The Baronets and their Brides. By the Rev. W. M. Cox. (Nisbet.) The author's aim has been, he tells us, to provide something "to instruct and persuade, as well as interest and amuse," the young who crave for "sensational novel reading." He contemplates a series of "unpretending productions of a somewhat similiar kind." We cannot encourage him in his project. The subject of his book—an unhappy marriage between a vain, foolish woman and an unprincipled spendthrift—is as bad as his style. He tells us that the characters have been, for the most part, drawn from life: we can only add they are not life-like. Our advice to Mr. Cox is to eschew long words and stilted talk, and try to put before his readers in natural language things that are pure, honourable, and of good report.

True Stories from Italian History. Compiled by F. Bayford Harrison. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) The bookbinder has here done his work better than the bookmaker. There is, indeed, plenty of information within the pretty covers of this volume, but it is conveyed in so dry a manner that few readers will find it palatable. Mr. Harrison's compilation is rather of materials than of stories. The latter, at any rate, suggest the addition of a little fancy and or mament.

Very Much in Earnest. By A. Lister. (S.P.C.K.) This is a short but touching story of a child brought up in religious disbelief by her father, but who becomes ultimately a sincere Christian. The tone of the book is religious, but wholly void of cant or bigotry.

Lucy Winter. By C. E. Reade. (S.P.C.K.) A simple but interesting narrative of the reformation of a heedless, gambling brother through the mediation of a loving sister. A slight soupçon of ritualism mars what would otherwise be a wholesomely religious book.

Mabel's Holiday. By E. M. and A. H. (S.P.C.K.) This is a story for young children, and full of interest even of a sensational kind. That its chief incident is improbable will probably not weigh much in the estimation of the young people for whom it is intended.

My Grandfather and His Parishioners. By P. M. W. (S.P.C.K.) Another child's book. It consists of a series of stories told by a grand-mother of events which might have happened fifty years ago. Their common aim is to tell children how they may become good Christian heroes.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. E. R. WHARTON, sometime Ireland scholar and now fellow of Jesus College, has decided to offer himself for the deputy-professorship of comparative philology at Oxford, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Sayce. By his two books—Etyma Graeca (1882) and Etyma Latina (1890)—as well as by sundry papers read before the Philological Society, Mr. Wharton has proved himself to be perhaps the only Englishman whose name is recognised on the continent in his own special branch of study. We understand that the other candidates include Mr. S. Arthur Strong, of Cambridge, who has taken all orientalism as his province; and Dr. William Wright, the translator of Brugmann, who has been trained in the straitest school of Teutonic philology.

We hear that the Royal Asiatic Society has now officially given its support to the committee formed for organising the ninth international congress of orientalists, to be held in London in 1892; and that Lord Northbrook (as president for the year) and Sir William W. Hunter (as a member of council) have joined this committee as vice-presidents. As there is some probability that the congress may visit Oxford, the names of the Master of Balliol and the Provost of Oriel also appear among the vice-presidents. The list of presidents of sections is now complete, as follows:—Aryan, Prof. Cowell; Semitic (a) Assyrian, Mr. Sayce; (b) General, Prof. Robertson Smith; China, Sir Thomas Wade; Egypt, Mr. Le Page Renouf; Australasia, Sir Arthur Gordon; Anthropology, Dr. E. B. Tylor. Of four hon. secretaries, we may mention Prof. R. K. Douglas, of the British Museum; and Prof. A. A. Macdonell, of Oxford.

Messrs. Macmillan announce a volume by Mr. Goldwin Smith, to be entitled Canada and The Canadian Question.

Messes. Longman have in the press a translation of the Abbé Fouard's $Life\ of\ Christ,$ with a preface by Cardinal Manning.

Messrs. Henry & Co. will begin in January the publication of a new series, to be called "The Whitefriars Library of Wit and Humour," under the editorship of Mr. Davenport Adams. The volumes are to appear at monthly intervals, the first being Essays in Little, by Mr. Andrew Lang; and the second, Sawn Off: a Tale of a Family Tree, by Mr. G. Manville Fenn. Each of these will be illustrated with a portrait of the author.

Mr. Frank Kidson, following the example of the Rev. S. Baring Gould, has been collecting old ballads in the North of England and the border counties of Scotland. Nearly a hundred of these, which he believes to be hitherto unprinted, he proposes to publish, together with their appropriate words from broadsides or oral tradition. The work will be issued early in the new year, by Mr. George P. Johnston, of Edinburgh, under the title of Traditional Tunes.

THE two next volumes of the series of "Historic Towns"—to be published, we believe, simultaneously—will be York, by Canon Raine; and New York, by Mr. Theodore Roosevelt.

The Rev. C. Halford Hawkins, chaplain and assistant master of Winchester College, has in the press a booklet entitled, *Hints on the Art of Reading and Reciting*, with illustrated examples—marked and annotated—from Shakspere, Milton, Byron, and Shelley. Messrs. Joseph Hughes and Co. will publish the work early in the new year.

MISS E. J. WHATELY will publish immediately, through Mr. Elliot Stock, a volume of essays on the Christian life, entitled *Doers of the Word*

THE Handbook to the Public Records, which Mr. Scargill Bird, the superintendent of the search department, has been engaged for some search department, has been engaged for some years in compiling, is expected to be issued very shortly. The work is, in effect, an elaborate catalogue raisonnée of the Public Records; and its publication will enable the uninitiated student to make use of that vast mine of legal and historical information which has hitherto been practically unworkable for want of an official guide.

MESSRS. WILLIAM ANDREWS & Co., of Hull, will publish at an early date Yorkshire Family Romance, by Mr. Frederick Ross.

THE forthcoming number of the Asiatic Quarterly Review will contain articles—in addition to those already announced in the ACADEMY—on "Italy in Africa," by Signor R. Bonghi; and on "The Anglo-Portuguese Question," by one who is probably the highest living Portuguese authority. Persicus contributes a second article, dealing with the importance of road-making in Persia, in view of the Russian veto on railways, which will be of the Russian veto on railways, which will be illustrated with a map; while the Persian ambassador in England supplies a statement about the Muharram, which should set at rest the dispute about the propriety of introducing the Prophet Muhammad upon the stage, so far as the Shiah sect is concerned. There will also be some plain speaking about the persecution of Jews in Russia, and the visit of the Czarewitch to India.

MR. ROBERT RICHARDSON will contribute to the United Presbyterian Magazine, edited by Prof. Calderwood, a series of papers entitled "Everyday Essays." The first, on "Sentiment," will appear in the January number.

AMERICAN readers of the ACADEMY will be interested to know that the vestry of the parish of St. Sepulchre's, in the city of London, have voted a sum of £25 "for the purpose of forming the nucleus of a fund for restoring the tembstone of Captain John Smith, founder of Virginia.

To-DAY (Saturday) Prof. Dewar-Fullerian professor of chemistry at the Royal Institution, and Jacksonian professor of natural experimental philosophy at Cambridge—will begin a course of six Christmas lectures (adapted to a juvenile auditory) at the Royal Institution, at 3 p.m. His subject is "Frost and Fire."

MR. J. G. COTTON MINCHIN, author of The Growth of Freedom in the Balkan Peninsula (John Murray, 1886), will deliver a lecture at the South Place Institute, on Sunday next, December 28, at 4 p.m., on "National Life and Thought in Roumania." He has already treated, at the same place, of Servia and Bulgaria.

In the Academy of November 29 we noticed an edition of Macbeth, consisting of the text of the first folio, with the variants of the other three folios (Halle: Niemeyer.) We have since received, again from Germany, a still more valuable contribution to the study of Shakspere. This is a parallel-text of *Hamlet*, based upon the first (1603) and second (1604) quartos and the first folio (1623). The editor is Prof. Wilhelm Vietor, well known as the editor of *Phonetische Studien*; and the book is editor of *Phonetische Studien*; and the book is published by Elwert, of Marburg. For the two quartos Mr. Griggs's facsimiles have been used, and for the folio the reduced facsimile of Halliwell-Phillipps; but in the latter case certain corrections of obscure typography have been made from the original copy in the British Museum. The method adopted has been to wint the text of the two quartos on British Museum. The method adopted has been to print the text of the two quartos on opposite pages, with the corresponding text of the folio across the two pages below; while the numbers of acts, scenes, and lines of the Globe edition have been added in the margin.

Prof. Vietor has interpreted an editor's duty so strictly as not to add a word about the many interesting questions that have been suggested as to the relation between the three texts. He is content to let the versions speak for themselves, referring the reader to the Cambridge editors and Mr. H. H. Furness. But even so, his book is one which no Shakspere student can afford to be without.

ORIGINAL VERSE.

"BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON."

O Winter tide, O Winter tide, Thy coming brings us sadness; Afar are those we hold most dear, Here men are strange, and skies are drear: O winter tide, O winter tide, Thy days are days of sadness.

O merry bells, O merry bells, That ring a Christmas greeting; As through the air thy full notes peal, What softer feelings o'er us steal: O merry bells, O merry bells,

Ring out a Christmas greeting.) fairy tide, O fairy tide, Thy magic gives men gladness;
Though bleak the sky, though chill the wind,
If hearts be warm, if friends be kind,
O Christmas tide, O Christmas tide,

Thy magic gives us gladness.

T. M.

Göttingen.

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

Barron, L. Les Fleuves de France: la Garonne. Paris: Renouard. 10 fr.
Brunet, G. Etudes sur la reliure des livres et sur les collections de bibliophiles célèbres. Bordeaux: Moquet. 10 fr.
Delatour, Albert. L'impot. Paris: Berger-Levrault. 2 fr.
Gallien, Lieut.-Col. Deux campagnes au Soudan français. Paris: Hachette. 15 fr.
Heibs, A. Les médai leurs de la Renaissance. T. 8. Florence et les Florentins. 1 pe partie. Paris: Rothschild. 200 fr.
Hongrie, la, illustrée. Zurich: Füssli. 10 fr.
Le Faure, G. Aventures de Sidi-Froussard. Paris: Firmin-Didot. 6 fr.
Matthis, C. E. L'Alsace et les Alsaciens à travers les siècles. Paris: Jouvet. 15 fr.
Weiner, B. v. Deutsches Kriegsschiffleben u. Seefahrkunst. Leipzig: Brockhaus. 9 M.

ARTAUD, A. Un armateur marseillais, Georges Roux. Paris: Champion. 8 fr. 50 c.
Cuq, E. Les institutions juridiques des Romains. L'ancien droit. Paris: Plon. 10 fr.
DEBIDOUR, A. Histoire diplomatique de l'Europe (1815—1878). Paris: Alean. 18 fr.
FOUENEL, V. L'Evénement de Varennes. Paris: Champion.

10 fr.

Geschichte der k. u. k. Kriegs-Marine. 2. Thl. Die k. k.
österreich. Kriegs-Marine in dem Zeitraume von 1797
bis 1848. 1. Bd. Wien: Gerold. 8 M.

Rinn, L. Histoire de l'insurrection de 1871 en Algérie,
Alger: Jourdan. 15 fr.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY, ETC.

GIACOMINI, C. I cervelli dei microcefali. Turin: Loescher.

GIACOMINI, C. 1 Cervein der interochen.

20 fr.

Ollé-Lapeune, L. La philosophie et le temps présent. Paris: Belim. 3 fr. 50 c.

RESULTATE, wissenschaftliche, der v. N. M. Przewalski nach Central-Asien unternommenen Reisen. Zoologischer Thl. 1. Bd. Säugethiere. Bearb. v. E. Büchner. 4. Lig. St. Petersburg: Eggers. 15 M.

Ziehen, Th. Leitfaden der physiologischen Psychologie in 14 Vorlesungen. Jena: Fischer. 4 M.

PHILOLOGY.

Lehreüchur d. Seminars f. orientalische Sprachen zu Berlin 1.—3. Pd. Berlin: Spemann. 43 M. 50 Pf.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

Christ's College, Cambridge: Dec. 15, 1890. I do not remember to have seen it pointed out, at any rate with sufficient clearness, that one of the chief characteristics of this playthe introduction of the fairy-king and queen into the plot, is really taken from Chaucer's Merchant's Tale (ed. Tyrwhitt, 10,101). Pyramus

and Thisbe are mentioned in the same, 10,002; and, more fully, in the Legend of Good Women. Every one knows that Theseus and Hippolyta were suggested by the Knight's Tale.

The point is that, in both works, a dispute between the fairy king and queen is settled by the aid of mortals. The dramatist has varied the incidents of the dispute with great skill.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

MILTON AND VONDEL.

The Vicarage, Northolt, near Southall: Dec. 9, 1890.

The appearance, in Prof. Masson's new library edition of Milton's Poetical Works, of a somewhat lengthy excursus upon the question of Milton's acquaintance with the works of his Dutch contemporary Vondel, with special reference to my little work* upon the subject, leads me again to address to you a few words

of personal explanation.

It would have been better, it seems to me, had Prof. Masson not devoted so many pages of his valuable Introduction to the discussion of a subject of relatively so little importance. - In his enthusiasm, however, for the reputation of the great poet, the learned editor has really gone out of his way (1) to draw attention to a work whose existence had probably been well-nigh forgotten; (2) to attribute to its author views on the subject of Milton's indebtedness to Vondel which he certainly does not, and

never did, hold.

I feel it therefore necessary once more emphatically to state that my object in writing the book in question was not to depreciate Milton, but to draw the attention of English students of literature to the merits of an unjustly neglected poet, and at the same time, by the comparison which I instituted between a series of contemporary poems dealing with precisely the same subjects, to give some account of the lives, modes of work, and literary characteristics of their authors. If in the advocacy of my thesis I may have been tempted at times to express myself too strongly, or to give the suspicion of suggesting that Milton deliberately purloined from Vondel, I fully and unreservedly withdraw any each invention unreservedly withdraw any such imputation.
At the same time, I remain quite convinced that the English poet was acquainted with and impressed by the Dutchman's writings, though I quite agree with Prof. Masson that, in a large number of the parallelisms of phrase and imagery which I have brought forward, the similarity is no doubt due, not to imitation, but to the fact that the poets were making use of common material, and that both alike had their minds saturated with Biblical and classical reminiscences. As, however, the publication of the several dramas of Vondel ("Lucifer," "Adam in Ballingschap," and "Samson") in each case preceded the composition of the corresponding portions of Milton's works, it need excite no surprise that he should have read them (qui facit per alios, facit per se), and that their perusal should have left perceptible traces on his imagination.

In 1885 I was unaware of the existence of the following passage, in which a high authority on such a subject endorses by anticipation the views which I have since more fully presented and worked out. The poet Beddoes, in a review of Hayley's Life and Letters (Quarterly Review, vol. xxxi., March, 1825), thus wrote:

"An effect, which has hitherto not been noticed, was then produced by the Dutch poets. In their school Joshua Sylvester (who had lived amongst them) learnt some of the peculiarities of his versification; and if Milton was incited by the perusal of any poem upon the same subject to compose his 'Paradise Lost,' it was by studying

^{*} Milton and Vondel: a Curiosity of Literature, (Trübner, 1885.)

the 'Lucifer' and 'Adam in Ballingschap' of Vondel; for he tried his strength with the same great poet in the Samson Agonistes, Vondel being indeed the only contemporary with whom he would not have felt it a degradation to vie."

GEORGE EDMUNDSON.

NORFOLK MANOR COURT ROLLS (THE BARWICK MSS.).

Stanhoe Grange, Norfolk: Nov. 14, 1890.

The subjoined entries, extracted from the Stanhoe manor court rolls (in continuation of those given in my former letter, Academy, November 15), furnish interesting details as to the tenure of land, and payment of rent (often in kind), fines (on taking possession), penalties, &c.

Thirty-one acres on a seven years' lease, at a yearly rental of sixteen shillings:

[4 Hen. IV.] "Domini concesserunt et ad firmam dimiserunt xxxi acras terre ir. Brunham Thorp [Burnham Thorpe, the birthplace of Nelson] Johanni Sewale de Thorp ad terminum septem annorum, termino incipiente ad festum sancti Michaelis Archangeli ultimum preteritum ante datum hujus curie, reddendi inde dominis per annum xvis. ad festum sancte Fidis Virginis proximum futurum pro omni servicio et consuetudine."

A close and croft and five and a half roods of land on a seven years' lease at a yearly rental of one quarter and two and a half bushels of barley:

[4 Hen. IV.]. "Domini concesserunt et ad firmam dimiserunt Bartholomeo Colle unam inclausuram vocatam Margeryesherde, cum crofto et tribus rodis et dimidia ad finem dicti crofti et dimidiam acram jacentem apud Barkerscroftesende, tenendas sibi et attornatis suis ad terminum vij annorum, termino incipiente ad festum sancti Michaelis Archangeli ultimum preteritum ante datum hujus curie reddenda indedomino per annum j quarteria et ij buscelli ordei ad festum sancti Martini in yeme [i.e. Nov. 11, the feast of St. Martin Hiemalis, as distinguished from that of St. Martin Bulliens, which was in June] proximum futurum pro omni servicio et consuetudine."

A fine of 3s. 4d. on taking possession of a messuage and three acres of land:

[4 Hen. IV.] "Galfridus Mundes capellanus et Johannes de Creyke de Stanhowe presentes in curia sursum reddiderunt in manus domini unum mesuagium de tenemento Skaneynes et Pynnokkes, et duas acras et unam rodam de tenemento Potters in diversis peciis in campo de Stanhowe, et dimidiam acram terre apud Losedele, et unam rodam terre native in Northcofte de tenemento Pynnokkes, ad opus Galfridi Irenhard de Walpole et Cecelie uxoris ejus et heredum suorum, &c. Quibus liberata est inde seisina, &c. tenenda ad voluntatem domini per servicia et consuctudines, &c. Salvo jure cujuslibet, &c. Et dant de fine iij s. iiij d. et fecerunt fidelitatem."

A penalty of 2d. for non-attendance at court:

[5 Hen. IV.] "Jurati de Therp presentant quod Radulfus Skot et Johannes Sewale faciunt defaltam secte curie [mercia iiijd]."*

John Webster is fined 6d. for making forcible recovery of four horses and a cart seized for arrears of service and rent, and 6d. for the same offence after they had been impounded on the land of the lord of the manor:

Stanhowe presentant quod Johannes Webster Tecit rescussum supra Johannem Wrokkels de iiijor equis et una caretta arestatis pro redditu et servicio a retro [mercia vi^d]."*

"Et quod idem Johannes fectt rescussum supra Nicholaum Sowter de predictis iiij^{or} equis et caretta captis supra feodum domini [mercia yid].'" Richard Wright is fined 4d. for lopping an ash:

[5 Hen. IV.] "Et quod Ricardus Wryght amputavit unam fraxinum supra bondagium domini [mercia iiijd]."*

This unlicensed felling and appropriation of timber was a frequent offence on the part of tenants. Records of it continually occur throughout the rolls. The penalty was usually a fine:

[1 Hen. VIII.] "Quod Gregorius Deynys fecit stripamentum ["clearing"] et vastum in succidendo diversas elmys [sic] et unam fraxinum, crescentes supra inclusum vocatum Esthallelose, ideo ipse in mercia iija."

[3 Hen. VIII.] "Quod Thomas Plyer fecit vastum supra tenementum suum quod est de bondagio domini in succidendo fraxinum et diversas elmes [sic], nec non reparavit tenementum suum predictum, ideo ipse in mercia xijd et preest sibi illud tenementum sufficienter reparare citra proximam curiam sub pena incumbenti," &c.

In other cases (at a later date) forfeiture of holdings:

[1 James I.] "Quod Robertus Davy commisit vastum succidendo supra curtelagium mesuagii sui nativi nuper Smithes in Stanho unam ulmum existentem meremium ["building-timber"] et ulmum illam ad usum et commodum suum proprium et non ad reparacionem domorum mesuagii illius convertit, ideo preest balivo mesuagium illud ac omnes alias terras quas tenet per copiam rotuli curie de manerio isto et habuit in una eademque concessione eum mesuagii illo seisire in manus domini et inde respondere domino de exitibus ['returns']."

Or a writ of ejectment:

[1 James I.] "Quod Johannes Ougton commisit grave vastum supra curtelagium mesuagii nuper in tenura ejusdem Johannis, modo seisitum in manus domini in Stanho, succidendo diversas grossas arbores scilicet ulmos et eradicando diversos pomos (anglice Apple trees) supra eosdem [sie] nuper crescentes, ideo persequatur breve domini regis versus eum pro trusyone illius."

Payment of rent in kind was a common practice. In 5 Hen. IV. Richard Wright for two acres of land pays "iij skeppes [sic] ordei in jbus annis et dimidiam quarteriam ordei in tercio anno." In the same year Edmund Wright pays three bushels of barley for an acre and half a rood of land; and William Davy pays two bushels of barley for one acre. In 11 Eliz. Laurence Asheworthe pays 13s. 6d. and two capons and two hens annually for thirteen and a half acres of land—the value of the fowls we get from an entry in the manor accounts, where (in 8 Hen. VIII.) twelve hens and one cock are priced at 2s. 2d., later on at 2s. In one instance payment is required of "xiija" and half an henne!"

In cases of trespass and damage done by straying animals money penalties were imposed:

[25 Hen. VI.] "Jurati presentant quod Thomas Clerk conculcat bladum et herbagium domini cum averiis suis ['farm-cattle'] et cum aucis suis, et continuavit per totum annum, ideo ipse in mercia iis iiid "

[28 Hen. VIII.] "Et quod Thomas Smyth pastor Ricardi Cotter introduxit gregem in campum de Stannowe in tempore nocturno ad grave dampnum tenentium domini, ideo in mercia vi^d. Et preest ei ne amplius sic agere sub pena xv^d."

[30 Hen. VIII.] "Et quod Robertus Wightman et Edmundes Julyan introduxerunt [sic] cum equis suis in campum de Stannowe in seperali pasturan domini vocata Longemere et ibidem pasturant et custodiunt dictos equos ubi nullo modo sic facere debent ad grave dampnum domini, ideo in mercia xijd et preest illis ne amplius sic facere sub pena cujuslibet eorum xijd."

[31 Hen. VIII.] "Et quod Thomas Fyshpole fecit injustam viam cum quadriga sua ['waggon'] trans-

* The fines in these instances are registered on the margin of the roll.

versus terras tenentium domini erga portam suam ad nocumentum usque Newportefelde, ideo in mercia iij^d, et preest ei ne amplius sic facere sub pena xij^d."

[32 Hen. VIII.] "Et quod Rogerus Houghton fecit injustam viam cum biga sua ['tumbril'] a puteo calceo ['chalk-pit'] transversus terras tenentium domini hujus manerii ad nocumentum ubi nullo modo sic facere debet, ideo in mercia iijd, et preest ei ne amplius sic facere sub pena xijd."

[11 Eliz.] "Et quod Johannes Smyth senior permisit porcellos suos vagare ad largum inanulatos ['unringed'] in subvertendum solum domini hujus manerii in tenura Johannis Neweman ad grave dampuum, etc., ideo ipse in mercia iijd", et preest ei ne amplius sic agere sub pena xijd, etc."

[23 Eliz.] "Et quod Henricus Whitaere contra consuetudinem hujus ville custodivit quandam equam et illam ad largum in communibus campis hujus ville ire permisit ad grave perturbacionem et dampnum equorum diversorum tenentium domini ibidem depascentium, ideo ipse in mercia xijd."

Occasional instances occur of the exercise of the jus weyvii, the claim over waifs, on the part of the lord of the manor. In one case the bona weyviata is a dish, value 5d., abandoned in his flight by a thief:—

[22 Hen VI.] "Jurati presentant quod quidam latro ignotus pro diversis feloniis fugam fecit extra dominium, et habuit infra dominium quandam parvam patellam, pretii v⁴, quequidem patella seisita fuit in manus domini et liberata est balivo salve custodienda, etc."

In another it is a coulter, value 1s.:

[10 Charles I.] "Et quod quedam pecia ferri vocata a coulter pretii 1s inventa fuit infra dominium istud ut bona weyviata, ideo preest balivo inde domino respondere."

The introduction of English words in the midst of the Latin, as in this last entry, is somewhat curious. In the earlier rolls they are used at times apparently as substitutes for Latin—e.g., we have had "skeppes" and "elmys"; later on they occur as explanatory of the Latin—e.g., in 41 Eliz. Henry Smith is fined 3s. 4d., "quod ipse non reparavit muros domorum suarum porcinarum ac domorum suarum gallinaciarum (anglice of his swyne cotes and henne houses)." Again in 15 James I. John Asheworth is dispossessed of his holdings for persistently neglecting to keep in repair "quedam domus pro braceo faciendo (anglice the maltehouse)."

Considerable local interest attaches to many of the entries on account of the minute topographical details given in describing the boundaries of the various pieces of land leased or surrendered. From these particulars it would be quite possible to construct a plan, for instance, of the old town (as it is always styled) of Stanhoe, which in those days must have been a considerable place, with its Petergate (to the south), Petergate-street, Docking-gate (to the west), Eastgate, Newport, Newportstreet, Northgate, Northgate-street, and so on.

Like many another old Norfolk town, Stanhoe, together with its neighbours the two Barwicks, Barmer, Docking, the three Birchams, the two Creakes, and the seven Burnhams, has dwindled into an insignificant village, with a few hundred inhabitants, its church alone now testifying to its former importance.

PAGET TOYNBEE.

HOMER AND ODYSSEUS.

Athenaeum Club: Dec. 18, 1890.

Can you spare me a little space in favour of two friends who are not here to defend their own reputations? Homer is accused of nodding, and Ulysses of being far from as wide awake as he should be to merit his reputation.

In the ACADEMY of Nov. 8, above the signature Isaac Taylor, I read:

"While in the *Iliad* he [Ulysses] is a wise and sagacious prince, in the *Odyssey* he is sometimes Quixotic in the extreme. Witness his conduct in the case of Polyphemus."

In the ACADEMY of Dec. 13, Mr. A. Lang comes to the rescue of Homer on terms which the poet would not have accepted-offering to help a dog who is not lame over a style that is non-existent-but he gives up the case of Ulysses as hopeless.

"In his recent work Mr. Gladstone has defended the unity of the character [that of Ulysses] in the two epics. His view has been impugned partly two epics. His view has been impugned pure because of Odysseus's hair-brained [sic] adventure with the Cyclops. His conduct was out of the Odusseu with the Cyclops. His conduct was out of character, indeed; but the whole plot of the Odyssey turns on it. . . . The poet who composed the Odyssey as we possess it built it all up to and from that as we possess it built it all up to and from that point; so if he makes Odysseus inconsistent, it is with his eyes open and knowingly. The incon-sistency, such as it is, is not accidental, the result of dovetailing—it is essential."

If this means anything, it is that the contriver of this marvellous story was not clever enough to combine his plot without committing the character on which its chief interest depends to

a gross inconsistency in the incident which is the turning point of the whole. But "verify your references." Then it will be seen that Ulysses landing on the shore of the Cyclops did not know where he was, and for anything that appears did not know of the existence of such a being as this one-eyed mountainous monster. His excursion of discovery with a single ship was quite in harmony with that spirit of adventure which belongs to him throughout. He went to see what men were to be found—"their way of life and their genius" so to translate the coming and their genius"—so to translate the opening words of the poem. At most, he surmised [δίσατο] that he might encounter an uncivilised man; and accordingly he provided himself with the very reliable means of conciliation-a magnum of that wonderful wine, of such bouquet and body, which he had received from the clergyman at Ismarus from a store reserved for his own and his wife's private consumption. When his less enterprising crew want him to return to the ship, it is not from fear of the Cyclops whom they have not seen and know nothing of, but for the sake of lifting some cattle. When the for the sake of lifting some cattle. When the monster does appear, all are unluckily within the cave, and so when he lights a fire they are seen and caught.

The late Col. Mure, with whom I had the pleasure generally of being in full sympathy on Homeric questions, made the same mistake as these critics. How pertinent was his phrase, which, I may say, he pointed out to me that I had borrowed from him (quite unconsciously) "The Iliad post-supposes the Odyssey quite as distinctly as the Odyssey pre-supposes the Iliad."

W. WATKISS LLOYD.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

Sunday, Dec. 28, 4 p.m. South Place Institute: "Roumania," by Mr. J. G. C. Minchin.
Monday, Dec. 29, 4 p.m. London Institution: Christmas
Course for Juveniles, "Rain and Fog," I., by Prof.
Vivian Lewes.
Tuesday, Dec. 30, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Frost and
Fire," adapted to a Juvenile Auditory, II., by Prof.
Dewar.
MEDINERDAY, Dec. 21, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Fortal

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Frost and Fire," adapted to a Juvenile Auditory," III., by Prof.

Dewar.

4 p.m. London Institution: Christmas Course for Juveniles, "Rain and Fog," II., by Prof. Vivian Lewes.
THURSDAY, Jan. 1, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Frost and Fire," adapted to a Juvenile Auditory, IV., by Prof.

FRIPAY, Jan. 2, 4 p.m. London Institution: Christmas Course for Juveniles, "Rain and Fog," III., by Prof. Vivian Lewes.

SATUEDAY, Jan. 3, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Frost and Fire," adapted to a Juvenile Auditory," V., by Prof. Dewar.

SCIENCE.

THE EARLY CIVILISATION OF ARABIA.

Skizze der Geschichte Arabiens. Part I. By Ed. Glaser. (Munich: Straub.)

Skizze der Geschichte und Geographie Arabiens. Vol. II. By the same. (Berlin: Weidmann.)

THE first of these works has fallen like a shell into the circle of orientalists. Hitherto we have been accustomed to regard Arabia before the time of Mohammed as a land of darkness and barbarism, lit up perhaps about the age of Augustus by the rise of one or two cultured kingdoms of small extent in the extreme South and of the kingdom of the Nabatheans in the North. That Arabia had been the seat of powerful and cultivated nations, whose authority had extended over the greater part of the peninsula centuries before the Christian era, had not been dreamed of by the wildest imagination. Such, however, it seems, we must

now admit to have been the case.

Dr. Glaser has devoted himself to the exploration of Southern Arabia. He has discovered there a large number of inscriptions, and has corrected or completed many others which had been previously copied. With the help of this new epigraphic material, and a thorough knowledge of the country and its historians, he has succeeded in throwing an unexpected flood of light on the early fortunes of the Arabian peninsula. He has been assisted in his work by the brilliant learning of Prof. Hommel, and has been further able to call to his aid the inscriptions copied by Doughty, Huber, and Euting in the neighbourhood of Teima in the North, and deciphered by Prof. D. H. Müller. The inscriptions of Southern and Northern Arabia confirm and supplement one another.

The most important part of Dr. Glaser's work is that in which he seeks to prove that the Minaean kingdom preceded that of the Sabaeans. His arguments are numerous and powerful, and it is difficult to find an answer to them. Not only in the classical writers, but even in the Old Testament, the Minaean kingdom is forgotten and extinct. We may hear of Minaean tribes, but the cultured state which had its capital at Ma'in has been superseded by Saba or Sheba. The same is the case if we turn to the Assyrian monuments. Here, too, we are told of a king of Saba who came into contact in Northern Arabia with the Assyrian rulers in the eighth century before our era; of kings of Ma'in they know nothing. The old belief that the Minaean and Sabaean kingdoms flourished contemporaneously must be given up in face of the evidence which Dr. Glaser brings against it. Geographically it is impossible. The cities of Saba were embedded, as it were, within Minaean territory, and the northern extension of the two kingdoms was one and the same.

The conclusion which follows from the fact that the kingdom of Saba was preceded by the kingdom of Ma'in is sufficiently startling. On the one hand, kings of Saba were already in existence in the time of Tiglath-pileser and Sargon, while a queen of Sheba visited the court of Solomon; on interpretation of the Qorân may be easily

the other hand, the inscriptions have already made us acquainted with the names of thirty-three Minaean princes, three of whom are mentioned in the inscriptions of the North. Moreover, as Dr. Glaser shows, the kings of Saba were the successors of the Makârib or "Priests" of Saba, just as the kings of Assyria were the successors of the priests of Assur. We must, indeed, go far back in history in order to discover the period when the kingdom of Ma'in waned

and the kingdom of Saba arose.

Great, therefore, must be the antiquity of writing in the peninsula of Arabia. Prof. Hommel believes that he has found a reference to the age of the Hyksos in an inscription copied in Southern Arabia by Halévy, the historical importance of which was first noted by Dr. Glaser. The authors of the inscription were governors of Ashur and Tsar, in which Prof. Hommel finds the Asshurim of Gen. xxv. 3., and the fortress Tsar which dominated the western frontier of Egypt. They had erected the inscription in gratitude for their deliverance from peril at a time when war had broken out between Egypt and Madhi, as well as when the kings of "the North" and of "the South" were engaged in hostilities with one another.

If the early use of writing in Arabia can be maintained, it will be necessary to modify very considerably the prevalent views as to the origin and history of the alphabet. Canon Isaac Taylor had already been led by palaeographical reasons to assign a much earlier date to the alphabet of Southern Arabia than that previously allowed to it. If Dr. Glaser's conclusions, which are accepted by Hommel and Halévy, can stand the test of future research, it will no longer be possible to speak of the Phoenician alphabet as the mother of the alphabets of the world. The Phoenician alphabet will itself have been derived from one of the

alphabets of Arabia.

There is much to be said for such a view. It will explain the puzzling fact that the oldest Phoenician text presents us with the alphabet already in an advanced stage of development. It will also explain the names given to several of the letters. $P\ell$, "the mouth," for example, bears no resemblance to the mouth in its Phoenician form; the Arabian form, on the contrary, is an oval. Finally, we shall understand why it is that certain sounds belonging to the Semitic Parent-Speech, but lost in Phoenician, are accordingly not represented by symbols in the Phoenician alphabet; whereas the alphabets of Arabia, where the sounds in question were preserved, express them by special symbols which cannot, for the most part, be derived from any of the other symbols of the alphabet.

Quite as interesting as the light thrown on the antiquity of Arabian civilisation is the light thrown by Dr. Glaser's researches on the influence of Judaism in Arabia in the centuries preceding Mohammed. Princes and peoples were converted to the Jewish faith, and Jewish doctrines were taught and accepted in what were afterwards the sacred cities of Islam. The bearing of this fact on the origin of Mohammedanism and the

imagined. The relation of Islam to Judaism assumes for us a wholly new aspect.

Of Dr. Glaser's Skizze der Geschichte und Geographie Arabiens only the second volume has as yet appeared. The first volume, which will deal with the history and antiquities of the country, is still in the press. The second volume is devoted to geography, and a very bulky and learned volume it is. The ancient authors have been ransacked for geographical details relating to Arabia, and the places and tribes mentioned by them have been identified by Dr. Glaser with great ingenuity, if not always convincingly. I cannot agree, for instance, with much that he has to say on the geography of Arabia according to the Assyrian inscrip-Biblical scholars will turn with special interest to his examination of the site of Ophir. That this lay on the shores of the Persian Gulf seems scarcely doubtful. It was the entrepôt of the wares of the East rather than the source from which they actually came.

What Dr. Glaser has already published is so important and so novel that we await with impatience the volume in which Arabian history is dealt with in all its details. Above all, it may be hoped that the publication of the texts upon which the reconstruction of that history is largely built will not long be delayed. Dr. Glaser has discovered more than a thousand inscriptions which have never been copied before. The decipherment of them is like the exploration of a new world.

A. H. SAYCE.

SCIENCE NOTES.

A COMMITTEE has been formed among fellows of the Royal Society to obtain a portrait of Sir Gabriel Stokes, on his retirement from the presidency, as an expression of their appreciation of his services for thirty-six consecutive years, as one of the secretaries or as president.

DR. C. LE NEVE FOSTER, inspector of mines. has been appointed professor of mining in the Royal College of Science, with which the Royal School of Mines is now incorporated.

MESSRS. TAYLOR & FRANCIS have just issued, on behalf of the Indian Government, a new volume of The Fanna of British India. It is a volume of *The Fauna of British India*. It is a second volume of Birds, somewhat smaller in size than the first, both edited by Mr. Eugene W. Oates. It completes the order of Passeres, which are represented by 936 species, or about five-ninths of all the species of birds found in India (including Ceylon and Burma). The India (including Ceylon and Burma). The families here described are the Muscicapidae (flycatchers), Turdidae (chats, robins, thrushes, dippers, and accentors), Ploceidae (weaverbirds and munias), Fringillidae (finches), Hirundinidae (swallows), Motacillidae (wagtails and pipits), Alaudidae (larks), Nectarinidae (sun-birds), Dicaeidae (flower-peckers), and Pittidae. As before, the work is illustrated with some admirable woodcuts, showing specific with some admirable woodcuts, showing specific differences of bill, tail, and claw, and (in a few cases) the bird in its habitat. Ornithologists will hear with regret that Mr. Oates's return to his duties in India will prevent him from com-pleting the work which he has so excellently begun, and (we fear) also from writing the discussion of the classification of Aves which he had promised for the concluding volume. Meanwhile, Mr. W. T. Blanford, the general editor of the series, has undertaken to treat the remaining orders of Birds, which will form

a third volume of extra size. Upon this he will set to work as soon as he has finished his own proper task; the second half of the volume containing Mammalia, which he promises to have ready early in 1891.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ELIZABETHAN SOCIETY .- Wednesday, Dec. 3.)

FREDERICK ROGERS, Esq., in the chair.—A paper, by Mr. William Poel, on "The Stage-Version of Romeo and Juliet" was read. Mr. Poel pointed out that Shakspere was evidently acquainted with Arthur Brooke's poem, the "Tragicall Historye of Romeus and Juliet," published in 1562, and with William Painter's story in his collection of novels, published in 1567 as *The Palace of Pleasure*, but that he writes a prologue to his play that contains an important modification in the argument. Why Shakspere thought fit to choose a different motive for his tragedy to the one shown in the poem and the novel we shall never know. He may have found the hatred of the two houses accentuated in an older play on this subject, and his unerring dramatic instinct would prompt him to use the parent's strife as a lurid background on which to portray with greater vividness the "fearful parent's strite as a turn background on which to portray with greater vividness the "fearful passage" of the "star-crossed lovers"; or the modification may have been due to Shakspere's reflections upon the political and religious strife of his day, or to his irritation at Brooke's short-sightedness in upholding as more deserving of censure the passion of improvident love than the evil of ready-made hatred. The characters in Shakspere's play may be divided into three groups—those who belong to the house of Carulet the house of belong to the house of Capulet, the house of Montague, and those who, as partisans of neither of the houses, we may call the neutrals. The play opens with a renewal of hostilities between the two "houses," which serves not only as a striking open-"houses," which serves not only as a striking open-ing, but brings on to the stage, without unnecessary delay, many of the chief actors. In less than thirty lines we are introduced to seven persons, all of whom indicate their character by the attitude they assume towards the quarrel. We are also shown the citizens hastily arranging themselves to part the two houses, and hear for the first time their ominous shout, "Down with the Capulets! down with the Montagues!" It is heard on two subsections of the control of t with the Montagues! It is heard on two subsequent occasions during the play, and is the death-knell of the lovers. A scene follows to prepare us for Romeo's entrance, Shakespere having wisely kept him out of the quarrel that the audience may see him indifferent to every other passion but the one of love. Romeo, until he was shot well one of love. Romeo, until he was shot well with Cupid's arrow, seems to have been a sociable being; for in the third act of the play Mercutio thus taunts him: "Why, is this not better now than groaning for love? Now thou art sociable, now thou art Romeo; now art thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature." We hear of Juliet for the first time in Paris, no less a person than the Prince's kinsman, as a suitor for her hand. In the next scene we are introduced to the heroine herself and to her nurse, the chief comic character of the play, brought in no doubt to supply "those unsavoury morsels of unseemly sentences, which doth so content the hungry humours of the rude multitude." In Scene IV. Mercutio is brought on to the stage; a character that figures in many Elizabethan plays, and in the theatrical parlance of Shakspere's time was known as "the horrible fierce soldier," but the part had never received such brilliant treatment till Shakspere took it in hand. Our stage Juliets, for some unaccountable reason, go through their billing and cooing in the so-called "balcony scene" as deliberately as they do their toilets; never for a moment thinking that the place is death to Romeo, and that "love's sweet bait must be stolen from fearful hooks." In Shakspere's time this scene was acted in broad daylight, and the dramatist is careful to stimulate the imagination of his audience with appropriate imagery. The word "night" ocwith appropriate imagery. The word "night" oc-curs ten times, and the actor would no doubt be instructed to give a special emphasis to the word. There are, besides, several allusions to the moon and the stars, including that descriptive couplet:

"Indy, by yonder blessed moon I vow, That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops."

When Shakspere can give us in words so vivid a picture of a moonlight night, Ben Jonson could well afford to have a fling at Inigo Jones's mechanical scenery, and say :

"What poesy e'er was painted on a wall?"

The scene in which Romeo and Juliet meet at the friar's cell, and are married, ends on the modern stage the second act. But to drop the curtain here interrupts the dramatic movement just as it is making to a climax—the death of Tybalt and the banishment of Romeo. The unforeseen complication arising out of Tybalt's death places Friar Laurence in a position of great difficulty and danger. The feud between the "houses" is now at its height, and he is directly responsible for the clandestine marriage. Our actors are apt to overlook this fact; but it is not only undramatic, but inconsistent with the text, to make the friar appear indifferent to his own tragic position. Juliet's death is carried out with the greatest simplicity, and within a few moments of her awakening. There is neither time for reflection nor lamentation. The watch has been roused, and is heard approaching. She has hardly kissed the poison from her dead husband's lips before the men enter the churchyard; and stage the second act. But to drop the curtain here hardly kissed the poison from her dead husband's lips before the men enter the churchyard; and nothing but the darkness of the night screens from them the sight of the steel that Juliet plunges into her breast. It is the presence of the watch almost within touch of her that goads her to lift the knife; as it is the vision of Tybalt's ghost pursuing Romeo that nerves her to drink the potion. The dramatist's intention is clearly indicated in the stage-directions of the two quartos and the folio. Mr. Poel concluded his paper by remarking that this last scene is full of animation, and presents a fine opportunity for the Régisseur. The crowd seen hurrying with "bated breath" to the spot; their horror at sight of the dead children, whom they believe to be murdered; their surprise at learning they are man and wife; the spot, their hortor at sight of the dead; their surprise at learning they are man and wife; the bowed grief and shame of Capulet and Montague; the Prince's stern rebuke; the reconciliation of the bereaved parents, and joining of hands across the dead bodies. Indeed, no stage-version of "Romeo and Juliet" can be consistent with the author's conception that does not give prominence to the hatred of the two "houses," and retain intact the three "crowd scenes"; the one at the opening of the play, the second in the middle, and the third at the end. To represent only the love-episode is to make that episode far less tragic, and therefore less dramatic.—A discussion followed, in which the chairman, Mr. James Ernest Baker, Mr. W. H. Cowham, Mr. Frank Payne, Mr. F. W. Hunt, and other members of the society took part. of the society took part.

PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY .- (Friday, Dec. 5.)

Henry Bradley, Esq., president, in the chair.—A paper was read by Mr. G. L. Larkins on "The Scansion of Heroic Verse." He began by stating that he should consider this particular metre solely with reference to its this particular metre solely with reference to its number of syllables, eschewing such terms as "foot" and "iambic" as implying divisions both arbitrary and misleading. The theory entertained by very few—that it originated in old English rhythms based on old French models—rested on very shadowy foundations, unsupported by positive evidence. Its sole founder was Chaucer, who adopted an accentual basis, and established the characteristics which have never been departed from since his time. Then the question arose. from since his time. Then the question arose, whence did he derive it? Entering closely into contemporaneous influence, we find that Provençal verse died out in the thirteenth century, and was effete and obsolete in his time; and the same was true of romances in the Langue d'Oil. The long war, accompanied with famine and pestilence, was disastrous to poetry in France during the four-teenth century, and Froissart was the only name of note that emerged. His rhythm had so many of the modern French regulations that we were compelled to acknowledge that, like the latter, it was devoid of stress. This latter feature was established by citing the dicta of the most eminent French metricians, and the writer utterly rejected the theory that English heroic had any affinity with the discoullable. Its sole criticians and affinity with the dicasyllabe. Its sole origin was the Italian cndecasillabo. Passing under review

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the known facts of Chaucer's intercourse with Italy, and the internal evidence furnished by the "Canterbury Tales"—of which several striking passages were cited—ample proof was given for this assertion. Next, the Italian heroic was closely examined; and, leaving out of question synaeresis and synalocpha (of which, however, Milton supplied examples), its laws were found to be identical with the English one. For this the chief Italian poets—as well as Byron, Chaucer, and Browning—were laid under contribution. These laws are: a poets—as well as Byron, Chaucer, and Browning—were laid under contribution. These laws are: a final accent on the tenth syllable, together with a predominant accent on the fourth or sixth and very rarely the eighth. Immediately following the two first we find either a masculine, a feminine, or a dactylic caesura. The dignified taste of the Italian heroic did not generally permit the latter after the fourth, although it was freely found in Dryden and Pope. By way of exception, however, a sonnet by fourth, although it was freely found in Dryden and Pope. By way of exception, however, a sonnet by Parini was referred to. The accents on the sixth or eighth following the predominant may be present or not, which bestows great variety on the rhythm, and the seventh and ninth are not counted. Likewise those on the syllables preceding the predominant, which form an anacrusis or prelude thereto, are not reckoned. While rendering a just tribute to the industry and research displayed in Dr. Schipper's Englische Metrik, too much weight is given therein to caesural influence, to the neglect of accent. The caesura is not so inconstant as the learned author represented it to be, but obeyed the fixed laws of the predominant, and is found only in certain places of the verse. Consequently enjambement had very slight influence on the caesura, inasmuch as the rejet was not always coincident therewith. The scholastic five-foot iambic, with classical technology to explain deviations from a supposed normal, was condemned, and the substitution of a syllabic unit to explain deviations from a supposed normal, was condemned, and the substitution of a syllabic unit of metre, according to immemorial French and Italian usage, strongly recommended. In conclusion, the writer intimated that this was only the threshold of a vaster inquiry into the relations between classic and modern metre, which he reserved for a future occasion.—Dr. Furnivall, on general grounds, expressed his concurrence as to the influence of Italian literature on Chaucer; and the president expressed the acknowledgments of the meeting to Mr. Larkins for the presentation of his views on a subject so important to history and literature.

FINE ART.

A LUTHER RELIC.

MR. T. THIEMANN, of Münster, has had the good fortune to secure a most interesting and valuable piece of mediaeval art, in the shape of Martin Luther's own "Contemplation Book of the Passion of Christ."

The work was executed by that famous family of goldsmiths, sculptors, and painters, the brothers Aldegrever, at Soest, in the years 1522-24, to the order of Joachim, Elector of 1522-24, to the order of Joachim, Brandenburg, and was in the following year size is small octavo; the covers are of ivory superbly sculptured, with silver supports; on the upper cover is a portrait of the Elector Joachim. The back is of solid silver, having the title, "Leiden Christi" engraved on it. The work contains 27 leaves, 14 of silver and 13 of parchment. The former are beautiful specimens of workmanship, and, in addition 13 of parchment. The former are beautiful specimens of workmanship, and, in addition to engraved prayers, meditations, and songs with musical notation, contain highly artistic representations of the Passion. The parchment leaves are illuminated with pen and ink drawings of delicate finish; conspicuous among which are pictures of the Four Evangelists, of Christ. of some female saints, and of Luther Christ, of some female saints, and of Luther himself. An examination of the monograms will reveal to the connoisseur the names of four brothers Aldegrever, who must have jointly executed the work.

This discovery is of importance for art history, since hitherto the works known under the name of Aldegrever in Vienna, Prag,

Berlin, Darmstadt, and Soest, are all attributed to one—viz., Henry Aldegrever. The dedica-tion of the work to Joachim is a proof of his warm sympathy with the reformer—at least, in the early years of his career; and it will, no doubt, have the effect of modifying the prevalent view taken of the Elector's attitude towards Luther. The work is also valuable as a contribution to religious history, since both text and ornaments preserve to some extent a Roman character, and further as illustrating the language of the period.

To Mr. Thiemann is due the merit of being

the first to appreciate at its full value the worth of the book. He is at present exhibiting it in Münster, and intends to exhibit it in other large German towns, and afterwards, possibly, in London. The book was found at Bevergern, a village in Westphalia.

TWO MINOR EXHIBITIONS.

THE exhibition of Mr. Albert Goodwin's drawings, at the Fine Art Society's, constitutes one of the most valuable and noteworthy picture-shows which we have recently been invited to see. There are about seventy drawings, the work chiefly of the last two years. Very few of these are sketches from Nature; they are rather the result of those finer memories of places and effects that have been cared for, which are the peculiar possessions of the artistic man. They appeal, therefore, primarily to the finer connoisseurs and the true collectors-in a word, not so much to the common public and the common painter, as to common punce and the common painter, as to the refined critic and the potential artist. Though here and there they evince quite wonderful craftsmanship, the mere craftsman will remain for the most part indifferent to their beauty. He will excite himself more readily over modern French brush-work—over some cheap French imitation of our great master, Constable. But that is of little importance. Mr. Goodwin's refined and exalted visions — his utterances so spontaneous, so varied, so entirely his own—will live when imitations, and the lop-sided eulogists of them in the minor journalism, are comfortably

It is a pity that Mr. Francis James's exhibition at the Dudley Gallery—a dingy, disregarded place, quite beautified for the occasion was open for so short a time. It will be closed—unless Mr. James has relented—before this word of appreciation is in the readers' hands. Mr. James's charming drawings have, as regards their subjects, been of two classes—the one consisting of slight, but always vigorous and refined, visions of landscape; the other, of requisite suggestions of the delicacy or glory of flowers—the transiency of the anemone, the splendour of the rose in June. It is too late now to insist here, further, or in any detail, upon their merits. But it is not too late at all to record the fact that, by an exhibition deliberately and wisely planned, and carried out with singular taste, Mr. James has greatly fortified his position with the always small number of people who may hope to have any entrance into the secrets of art; while he has, for the first public—with a certain danger, we think, of bringing upon himself what a wit, who was endowed with a measure of wisdom, once thought proper to describe as "the insult of popularity."

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

Royal Society of Painters in Water-Colours. In addition to a record of the proceedings of the society and the contents of its exhibitions, it will contain biographical notices of all its deceased members and associates, and also an account of the practice of water-colour painting in England during the last century. The work will form two volumes royal octavo, and will be published by Messrs. Longmans.

LORD WHARNCLIFFE, as president of the Society for the Preservation of the Ancient Monuments of Egypt, has presented to Lord Salisbury the memorial before referred to in the ACADEMY, which now bears about 650 signatures, praying for the appointment of an official inspector (if possible, an Englishman), to whom the care of the monuments should be

THE most important feature in the programme of the *Portfolio* for the coming year is a series of twelve articles by the editor, Mr. P. G. Hamerton, on "The Present State of the Fine Arts in France," to be illustrated with etchings Arts in France," to be illustrated with etchings by MM. Flameng, Damman, Toussaint, and Manesse. Prof. A. H. Church will write upon "Textiles and Paper-Hangings," and "Some Features of Japanese Art"; Mr. F. G. Stephens upon "The Caricatures of Rowlandson" and "W. H. Hunt"; Mr. Walter Armstrong upon "Mr. Alfred Gilbert," and "Van Meer and Brekelenkam"; and Mr. J. Leyland upon "Haddon Hall," with illustrations by Mr. H. Railton. Among the plates promised are Ros-"Haddon Hall," with illustrations by Mr. H.
Railton. Among the plates promised are Rossetti's "Beata Beatrix," by Mr. G. W. Rhead;
Walter Hunt's "Dog in a Manger," by Mr.
C. O. Murray; Franz Hals's "Portrait of a
Man"; and etchings by Mr. F. Slocombe,
G. Poynot, A. Dawson, &c.

Among the contents of the Art Journal for the coming year will be a series of six articles on "The Pilgrims' Way," from Guildford to Canterbury, written by Mrs. Ady (Julia Cart-wright), with illustrations by Mr. A. Quinton; wright), with illustrations by Mr. A. Quinton; two articles on "The Scenes of Tennyson's Childhood"; "A Summer Tour through Continental Galleries," by Mr. Walter Armstrong; "The Houses of the Gunpowder Plot Conspirators," by Mr. W. Outram Tristram, illustrated by Mr. Herbert Railton; "The Collection of the Scottish Antiquaries," by Mr. J. M. Gray; and "Art in America," by Mr. G. H. Boughton. The January number will contain an article on "The Recent Additions to the National Gallery," by Mr. Sidney Colvin, with four illustrations. four illustrations.

THE STAGE.

STAGE NOTES.

As a foretaste, perhaps, of the grandeurs and longuers of pantonime, we allowed ourselves, one night last week, to see the "Cigale" at the Lyric. No one should go to the "Cigale" with a severe mind. The appeal is not to the mental faculties, but to one's capacity for sensuous impression. "La Cigale" is just now sensuous impression. "La Cigale" is just now the prettiest, most gorgeous, most luxurious show that can be beheld in London. In these respects, though not perhaps in the element of fun, it more than vies—dare we say it?—with "Carmen up to Data" at the Gaiety; and the Gaiety entertainments, under Mr. George Edwardes's management, have long been established as the standard up to which light opera and burlesque, elsewhere, are bound to opera and burlesque, elsewhere, are bound to endeavour to live. It is not our function to criticise with seriousness the music of "La Cigale"; but we may say of it that, if it has not quite the style and technical merit of "Dorothy," nor quite the unforced melodious-ness of each production of Sir Arthur Sulli-MR. JOHN LEWIS ROGET, editor of Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases, has been engaged for some time past upon a history of the "Old Water-Colour Society," now the

hearing with pleasure. Of course, a very notable point in the piece, as it is performed at the Lyric, is the opportunity which it affords to Miss Geraldine Ulmar—heard here to better advantage in the music of Audran (with touches by Mr., Ivan Caryll) than even in the music with which the composer of "The Golden Legend" has for year after year provided the Savoy. Miss Ulmar indeed—and especially as the piece proceeds—both acts and sings with remarkable skill. Another point is the singing, and, let us add, the gallant bearing, of the gentleman presented to us as Le Chevalier Scovell. His performance and his personality count for much in success of the piece. But, in spit success of the piece. But, in spite of ourselves, we are getting lamentably serious, with analysis and comparisons and matter of fact reports. That is not at all what is wanted. The men of London do not leave the dinner table to betake themselves to the Lyric because this or that actor is a little better than the like of him may be found elsewhere. Stalls and boxes are filled to overflowing simply because of the sensuous glory of the The old Emperor William—a great connoisseur in these matters, we believe would not have hesitated to extend the Imperial protection to the Lyric ballet. They dance, indeed, extremely well, and have the supreme merit of being very good looking. Theophile Gautier—reveller in light and colour—would hardly have sighed over himself as "pauvre Théo" had he been privileged to witness the splendours and audacities of hue and of design which do so much to make "La Cigale engaging. Money has been spent lavishly and spent tastefully in providing a vision of magnificent dress—of harmonies and contrasts of colour such as occur chiefly to the imagination of the most gifted of theatrical costumiersand of placing this dress, not always in too encumbering quantity, upon a great troop of the judiciously selected. Heliotrope and plum colour, silver and lavender, old gold and russet brown, grey-blue and steel, copperish gold and and flaming red-the splendours of velvets and brocades and satins, the grace of tulle (for the audience, like one of the persons of the drama, does not resent the diaphonous)—the Lyric stage, we say, while "La Cigale" is playing, is a parterre of such flowers as these. And against such flowers as these, what chance has the intellectual drama. The natural man—whether with the taste of the amiable barbarian, or the taste of Théophile Gautier, does not trouble even to ask for it.

MUSIC.

MUSIC BOOKS.

A System of Sight-Singing from the Established Musical Notation. By Sedley Taylor. (Mac-millan.) How to Teach Sight-Singing. By millan.) John Taylor. (Philip.)

It is strange that these two works should have appeared about the same time. Both authors in favour of certain modifications of the Tonic Sol-fa system, but both advocate the use of the established notation. Mr. Sedley Taylor thinks the former helps to a knowledge of the latter; Mr. John Taylor, that the two can be used concurrently. The former suggests a reform of the staff notation; and the latter has invented a Stave and a Key Modulator, to exhibit tonal, and simplify key relationship.

The two books have a common aim and to

some extent the means are common, so that they may conveniently be considered together. It will be our object to indicate some only of the features of both systems, to point out generally their likenesses and differences, and to offer a few comments. To attempt more would

occupy far too much space. further saving to give only the initials of the writers; since, owing to the similarity of name, we must, in mentioning them, quote the Christian as well as the surname.

First, let us notice the points of resemblance. Both writers admire the pictorial representation of pitch in staff notation, and both believe that the staff is well able to exhibit tonal relation. S. T. suggests that the line or space on which the key-note is to be found should be specially pencil-marked; the singer would then be able to compare other notes with it. When modula-tion occurred, a new line or space would be accordingly marked. J. T., on the other hand, by means of two clever appliances, named the Stave and the Key Modulator, so graphically exhibits the relation of the notes of a scale to the tonic, and in his singing exercises so constantly keeps this relationship in view, that pupils would never connect, as has generally been done, the staff notation merely with absolute pitch. But besides this, he sometimes exhibits at the beginning of an exercise a "skeleton" of the scale group of notes as shown skeleton" of the scale group of notes as shown in his modulators. The aims of both writers in this matter are, therefore, common for short simple pieces, such as hymn tunes; the method

of S. T. is a very practical one.

In the important matter of the minor scale, the two writers differ. S. T. strongly objects to the "Lah Mode" of the Tonic Sol-fa system. He considers it far more rational to regard the minor as a modification of the major mode, and even proposes to do away with the usual minor signatures. Thus, the key of C minor would be written with the C major signature, and flats and sharps would be added as wanted. Theoretically, this would show the relationship between tonic major and minor scales; but in practice it would, in long pieces, necessitate many accidentals. J. T. adopts the Tonic Sol-fa "Lah Mode," and thereby, we think, causes great confusion to his own system. His "skeleton" group mentioned above is admirably adapted to the tonic principle advocated by him; but by prefixing the "skeleton" of C major to a phrase in A minor,

J. T. is hardly consistent. J. T. is hardly consistent.
S. T. has a short chapter on chromatic or, as he calls them, "modified" scale notes. He considers they might be treated as "indeconsiders they might be treated as "indeconsiders of the scale" pendent of the other members of the scale and named accordingly, but asserts that "it has been found more convenient to regard them as attendants on one or other of their two next neighbours." This, of course, means that sharps are to be used in ascending, flats in descending. J. T., describing them as "intermediate" notes, writes out the chromatic scale in like fashion. Neither, then, seems to look upon such notes as having any real connexion with the diatonic notes and with the tonic. S. T. only touches slightly on the matter, but T. gives numerous examples containing chromatic notes, and comments upon them. The chromatic scale is the bête noire of theorists. Some would explain the additions to the diatonic scale as derived from related scales, others from fundamental chords in the scale; but all are pretty well agreed not to write A sharp in ascending, or G flat in descending; and in this they are supported, for the most part, by the practice of the great masters. In J. T.'s example from the "Creation," with the A sharp, there is modulation, and the bar in which the A sharp occurs is no longer in the key of C. But we must abstain from further discussion. The system of J. T. is an excellent one up to a certain point; though for advanced music, with chromatic notes and intricate modulations, it is not comprehensive enough. We are not surprised that in one place the author should speak of the "restless wandering tonality" of the advanced German school.

Mr. J. Taylor is a teacher of much experience; and, whatever objections we may raise against certain points in his work, it is full of original thought and practical hints. His Stave and Key Modulators are decidedly original, and must be of immense service in class

teaching.

Mr. Sedley Taylor's book deserves special praise for its clear, concise style. He, too, is eminently practical, and he presents many elementary matters in quite a fresh and original manner. We said at the outset that we had to beware of exceeding our space. We have done justice to neither book, but if this notice induces any teacher or pupil to read them it will suffice.

J. S. SHEDLOCK.

MUSIC NOTES.

NIELS GADE, the well-known Danish composer, died suddenly at Copenhagen on December 21. He was born in 1817, and from early youth showed musical talent. He was a personal friend of both Schumann and Mendelssohn. In 1844 he took the place of the latter as conductor of the Leipzig concerts. In 1848 he returned to his native city, where since 1865 he has held the post of director of the Conservatoire. His works, which are numerous, include Symphonies, Overtures, Concertos, and Cantatas. Of the last, "Zion" and "The Crusaders" were produced under his direction at Birmingham in 1876, and "Psyche" was given at the same place in 1882. It is twenty-three years since one of his seven Symphonies has been heard at the Crystal Palace. The Scandinavian element is not lacking in Gade's music, but he was greatly influenced by Mendelssohn. His works, therefore, are more distinguished for charm and finished workmanship than for striking individuality.

THE Crystal Palace Concerts will be resumed on February 14. with Herr Stavenhagen as pianist. In March, Berlioz's "La Mort d'Ophélie" for female chorus and orchestra; Grieg's "Scenes" from Björnson's Drama "Olav Trygvason"; and a Concerto for pianoforte by Miss Dora Bright, are announced. Dr. Joachim will appear on February 28, playing Beethoven's Concerto, and M. Ysaye follows on March 21 with a Concerto by Vieuxtemps.

M. RICHARD GOMPERTZ gave two concerts of chamber music at Princes' Hall on December 11 and 18. The programme of the first included Beethoven's great Quartet in E flat (Op. 127), and Dr. Stanford's Quintet in D minor, with the composer at the pianoforte. At the second, Brahms's Quartet in B flat (Op. 67) was given. Mr. Borwick was the pianist, taking part in a Beethoven Sonata for pianoforte and violin and also playing solos. M. Gompertz and his associates—Messrs. E. Kreuz, H. Inwards, and C. Ould—may be commended for their rendering of works not often heard: it is eleven years since the Beethoven Quartet and twelve years since the Brahms was given at the Popular Concerts. Miss Lena Little and Mr. W. Shakespeare were the vocalists at the first evening, and Miss Fillunger at the second.

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